FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-044
Thursday
5 March 1992

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-92-044 *5 March 1992*

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Japan

Tokyo Rejects Tariffication of Rice, Dairy Goods

OW0503024492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Geneva, March 5 KYODO—A Japanese list of measures to reduce or abolish domestic protection submitted to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Wednesday did not specify tariff rates on rice and dairy goods, Japanese officials said.

According to the Japanese product-by-product national list on agricultural products, Tokyo refuses to convert its import curbs on rice into tariffs, citing a need to maintain self-sufficiency in rice, Japan's staple, for food security reasons. Japan also rejects tariffication of dairy goods, saying the products are covered by a GATT article allowing nontariffication of production-controlled items.

On Monday, Japan submitted its list of suggested tariffs on other products. The European Community (EC) also submitted its product list Wednesday, but according to GATT sources, the document did not include details about an export subsidy reduction target. The United States is expected to present its list this week, but it had not done so as of Wednesday night, they said.

GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel has set an April 19 deadline to conclude the current Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks, which were launched in 1986. But observers say the negotiations are in a difficult situation, since the U.S., the EC, and Japan have not been able to iron out their differences.

In the list presented Wednesday, Japan proposed cutting domestic subsidies on rice, wheat, barley, soybeans, milk, beef, pork, chicken, eggs, vegetables, and fruit, basically by 20 percent in six years after presenting their aggregate measurement of support (AMS). It also called for lowering overall tariffs by an average of 30 percent in principle in six years.

The officials said Japan has been requesting a revision of the final draft proposal, which was compiled by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel in an effort to conclude the current Uruguay Round multinational trade talks. Tokyo hopes to begin substantial discussions once each nation submits its individual tariff list, the officials said.

Analysts say Dunkel is expecting to open a Trade Negotiations Committee meeting as early as mid-March, once the lists are handed in, to coordinate further negotiation schedules. But conflicts involving the U.S., Japan, and the European Community have basically remained unchanged, the officials said, expressing pessimism about the possibility of the current round of talks being concluded by an April 19 deadline set by Dunkel.

Farm Ministry Maintains Opposition

OW0503050292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries will in future negotiations continue trying to prevent the imposition of tariffs on rice, officials said Thursday after Japan presented its agricultural product-by-product list designed to ease nontariff trade barriers.

In the list, submitted to the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on Wednesday in Geneva, Japan refrained from suggesting figures for tariffs on rice and dairy products in an apparent move to reject tariffication of those products.

Talks Held on Civilian Use of U.S. Air Base

OW0503012792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Japan and the United States are discussing a plan to make the Yokota Air Base in the western suburbs of Tokyo available for joint use by the U.S. Air Force and civilian aircraft, a Japanese newspaper reported Thursday. The TOKYO SHIMBUN said the talks are under way between the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan and Japan's Defense Facilities Administration Agency.

If the plan is realized, Yokota will be the third U.S. air base in Japan to be partly used for civil aviation, following Chitose Airport near Sapporo and Misawa in Aomori Prefecture. Covering a space of 7.1 million square meters in Fussa, western Tokyo, the Yokota Air Base has a 3,350-meter runway, which could be used for jumbo jets, the newspaper said.

The Transport Ministry is searching for a location for a third Tokyo airport besides the existing ones at Narita, Chiba Prefecture, and at Tokyo's Haneda District, to meet the rapidly increasing number of airline passengers and volume of air cargo, the daily said. Quoting a ministry estimate, the TOKYO SHIMBUN said the number of domestic airline passengers will show a 1.81-fold increase over 1992 to 103 million in 2000, of which 60 percent will be using Haneda.

Automakers Seek To Block U.S. Parts Probe

OW0503012692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Washington, March 4 KYODO—The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said Wednesday it is seeking to block or narrow a U.S. investigation of parts purchases made by Japanese-owned automakers in the United States.

"We are convinced that there has been no restraining economic behavior that would have justified an investigation" by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), said Toshihiro Iwatake, deputy general director of the association's Washington office.

Iwatake said his organization filed a formal petition Monday with .he FTC, asking it to quash a subpoena ordering the association to submit documents relating to its activities in the U.S. The petition urged the FTC to narrow the scope of the subpoena barring a total annulment, Iwatake said. In a statement released in Tokyo, the car manufacturer association denied that it has been involved in the purchase or distribution of auto parts by Japanese automakers or engaged in activities violating U.S. antitrust laws.

The FTC delivered the subpoena to the association's Washington office on February 13 as part of a two-year-old investigation of "keiretsu" practices in auto parts business transactions, according to the statement. The FTC probe stemmed from American auto parts manufacturers' complaints that Japanese-owned automakers favored Japanese-owned part manufacturers as their parts suppliers under the "keiretsu" interlocking business relationship. The FTC served the subpoena on the association two weeks before Attorney General William Barr said on a television talk show that the U.S. was "reexamining our antitrust policies with respect to cartels overseas that restrict U.S. exports."

William Tanaka, the Japanese carmaker association's trade counsel, said the FTC subpoena was "over-extensive in scope," since it covered documents relating not only to auto parts transactions but also to transactions involving finished cars among the eight Japanese automakers operating in the U.S. The FTC wants information on "the marketing, distribution, pricing, and all other documents relating to the sale of finished automobiles in the U.S.," even though its investigation was supposed to focus on foreign auto parts, Tanaka said.

"Anything that deals with competition in finished automobiles is outside the scope of this investigation," he said.

Tanaka said the association is prepared to produce documents related to the "policies and practices" of auto parts purchases made by the eight Japanese-owned manufacturers.

Foreign Minister Watanabe on Trust With Russia

OW0503135892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] At the lower house Budget Committee session held today, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe stressed that in order to set[illegible] the northern territorial issue it is important to build relations of trust with Russia by providing it with adequate support.

At the lower house Budget Committee session, Diet Member Mikio Omi of Komeito brought up the issue of negotiations for the return of the northern territories, and asked whether the government should try to achieve an early return of the northern territories by offering Russia economic cooperation.

In his reply, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Russian President Yeltsin had stated that his intention since becoming Russia's leader was to seek a resolution of the territorial matter on the basis of law and justice; that it would be important for Japan and Russia to move closer little by little; and that for its part Japan should adhere to the principle of separating political concerns from economic interests by not offering full-fledged financial support to Russia in return for the territorial issue being settled. However, he added that if such a principle should be observed to the letter, there would be no change in the current situation, and Japan therefore hopes to consolidate relations of trust by offering emergency food aid and other measures which have already been started.

Thus, Foreign Minister Watanabe stressed his view that for the purpose of settling the territorial issue, it is important to build relations with Russia based on trust by offering adequate economic support for Russia.

Landsbergis Urges Meetings on Russian Reforms

OW0503092992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said Thursday his country and Japan should consult on ways of facilitating economic reforms in Russia and ensuring "peaceful changes" there, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Landsbergis, who arrived Wednesday on a six- day visit to Japan, the first ever by a Lithuanian head of state, made the remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Landsbergis was quoted as saying it would be meaningful for Lithuania and Japan to consult on Russia as they are both neighbors of the sprawling country, though located on opposite ends, and therefore similarly affected by the course of events there.

Asked by Miyazawa if he thinks reforms in Russia aimed at shifting to a free market economy will succeed, Landsbergis said since their failure would have severe political implications, "we have to hope for their success."

Landsbergis, a former music professor who led his Baltic country of 3.6 million people in breaking with the Soviet Union after last August's abortive coup in Moscow, said one of Lithuania's main tasks is to reduce its high level of dependence on Russia for energy supplies.

The officials said the two leaders did not discuss the former Soviet Army's pullout of troops from Lithuania, which finally began Tuesday. Russia has said the pullout may take years to complete, while Landsbergis has accused Moscow of delaying it.

Landsbergis told Miyazawa that Lithuania wants to attract Japanese investment and boost exchanges with Japan in the fields of education, economics, and science and technology.

He said his country wants to export to Western countries fertilizers, light industry goods, and furniture.

Lithuania, he said, is anxious to join the European Community but as there is a long waiting list it has taken the provisional measure of signing a trade and economic cooperation agreement with the 12-member body.

The officials said Landsbergis expressed concern about the safety of a nuclear reactor in Lithuania that is of the same type as the one that wrought devastation in Chernobyl in 1986.

The Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant is the only such facility among the three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The officials said Landsbergis will hold talks Friday with business leaders belonging to the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and will meet Saturday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Lithuania last October and since then Lithuanian Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius has visited Tokyo twice.

Teachers Discuss History Education for Peace

OW0503134792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Teachers from Japan, China, India, and other Asian and the Pacific countries attending an educators' forum here discussed Thursday how they should teach real history to students in order to maintain peace.

The three-day Asian and Pacific Education Forum, organized by the Japan Teachers Union (Nikkyoso) began Wednesday with the aim of discussing children's human rights, peace, and the environment.

Organizers said some 240 educators, including 40 foreign representatives from 24 countries and regions, are attending the forum, the first of its kind.

At a group meeting on peace Thursday, a representative from South Korea told participants to cooperate in ensuring "the misery and truths of war," including the issue of Korean women forced into wartime prostitution by Japanese soldiers, are fully portrayed in textbooks.

"One good example of an effort to obstruct peace is Japan's hiding of its invasion of the Korean peninsula" by distorting the realities of war in history textbooks, said Chung Hae-suk, vice president of the (South) Korean Teachers and Educational Workers' Union.

A North Korean delegate also criticized Japan for not teaching "the history of the invasion of the Korean peninsula by Japanese imperialism" the way it happened.

Nam Son-hi, president of the Educational and Cultural Trade Union of DPRK (North) Korea, said a policy of history education in her country is to "find inner causes of the colonization of our country by Japanese militarism."

"In order to avoid Japan from repeating the invasion, it is important to teach the history of the invasion of the Korean peninsula to the new generations without hiding anything," she said.

Sun Zhaoshan, a member of the Educational Worker's Union of China, said, "When we talk about...the Marco Polo Bridge case and the Nanking (Nanjing) massacre in our textbooks, our purpose is to educate the Chinese students not to forget the history."

"Through the study of history, we hope that the Chinese and Japanese students will come to a conclusion that the two countries will not be at war in the future," he said.

A Japanese teacher from Aomori Prefecture talked about his experience of visiting China last September with young co-workers.

"It was a short trip, but there was one thing so shocking to me. That was a visit to the Marco Polo Bridge," said Yuichi Sakurai.

A clash between Japanese and Chinese troops on the Marco Polo Bridge on July 7, 1937, led directly to the Sino-Japanese war of 1937-1945.

When Sakurai visited the war memorial hall near the bridge, he felt "a tingling pain in my cheek," and thought "I could not be here," he said.

He said the young teachers also told him it was a good experience, with one of them saying, "isn't it impossible to teach history to children without experiencing this?"

"We have to treat World War II more and more preciously" in history education, Sakurai said.

Emergency Aid Package Pledged to El Salvador

OW0503071692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe pledged Thursday that Japan will provide El Salvador with an emergency aid package worth over 600 million yen following a recent peace settlement between the government and leftist rebels, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said Watanabe made the pledge in a meeting with El Salvador's Planning Minister Mirna Lievano de Marquez, who arrived in Japan on Sunday on a six-day official visit.

Watanabe was quoted as saying that as part of the emergency aid package, Japan would provide a 500 million yen grant for economic restructuring and a 4.5 million yen grant to build waterworks facilities in areas designated for settlement of returning war refugees.

In addition, he said Japan would give 100 million yen to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) within 1992 for its refugee relief activities in El Salvador.

The officials said the package to help El Salvador over the short term will be implemented with funds allocated out of the government's budget for the current fiscal year, which ends March 31.

Japan plans further assistance for the country out of the budget for the next fiscal year, they said.

To help El Salvador deal with the longer-term task of rebuilding its economy, the officials said Watanabe pledged Japan would send an expert to the country within the month to advise the government.

A Japanese Government aid mission will be dispatched within the year to evaluate prospects for a resumption of yen loans and expanded grant assistance.

Watanabe said Japan will also send a senior Foreign Ministry official to attend a World Bank-sponsored conference of aid donor nations on El Salvador scheduled for March 23 in Washington.

He promised further that Japan would consider grants to El Salvador for cultural purposes, restaff its embassy in San Salvador in the near future, and send a Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) mission to the country in late March to look into opportunities for trade.

El Salvador has recently called for 730 million U.S. dollars in emergency aid and has estimated it needs just over 1 billion dollars, spread over five years, to help it recover from 12 years of devastating civil war.

Some 70,000 people were killed in the war, which ended when the government signed peace accords January 16 with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The government's national reconstruction plan envisages rebuilding of infrastructure, relaunching of economic activity in areas worst hit by fighting, consolidation of democratic institutions, and financing of the return to civilian life of fighters.

Bill Planned Regarding Diet Members' Assets

OW0503074492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—A subcommittee of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed Thursday to propose legislation requiring all Diet members to make public their personal assets in a bid to promote political reforms, LDP officials said.

The agreement was made at a meeting of the LDP political reform headquarters' subcommittee on political ethics, the officials said.

The planned legislation basically originates from the LDP draft plan for political reforms, which were hammered out in 1989 following the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal, they said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, hit by a spate of scandals, has urged the LDP panel to come up with a new set of political reform bills.

Last year, Miyazawa's predecessor Toshiki Kaifu presented a set of three bills designed to introduce single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives general elections, as well as for tightening controls on political funds and supplying subsidies to political parties.

The Kaifu proposal package was later scrapped in the lower house.

The just-drafted legislation calls for all members of the Diet to disclose a list of each member's real estate holdings, deposits, securities, and golf club memberships, on the occasions of elections for both houses. Newly acquired assets after the elections are required to be made public December 31 of the same year.

It also calls on Diet members to file reports within 100 days after elections about their own holdings, as well as the assets held by their spouses and offspring.

Members in the 512-seat lower house would notify the speaker, whereas those in the 252-seat House of Councillors would report to the president.

The making public of assets will be limited to Diet members' assets, and the holdings of their spouses and offspring can be publicized on special occasions, the LDP officials said.

The LDP intends to bring the draft plan up for discussion with opposition parties after receiving permission from its highest decision-making body, the Executive Council, the officials said.

The holdings of Diet members' spouses and offspring will be revealed at the request of the respective parliamentary houses if Diet members are indicted or if Diet members are suspected of being involved in some political scandals and voluntarily ask their spouses and offspring to reveal their assets.

Their assets also will be made public if the lower house speaker or the upper house president asks for the revelation at the request of the LDP political ethics screening committee.

The legislation also calls on Diet members to file reports on their income in the previous year.

As for the publicizing of the holdings of members of local assemblies and heads of local governments, the LDP

draft plan stipulates necessary steps should be taken in three years after the enactment of the legislation.

Government Plan To Stimulate Economy Outlined

OW0503020892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0139 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The government is expected to launch its first comprehensive pump-priming program in five years in April to shore up Japan's slowing economy, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Thursday. The program will include such measures as early outlays of public works budget, promotion of investment for manpower cutting and business streamlining with low-interest loans from the Japan Development Bank and the Small Business Finance Corp., and stimulation of private plant and equipment investment, the economic daily said.

The projected program is more comprehensive than a set of business-stimulating package the government plans to adopt Friday. [sentence as received] It will also urge large corporations such as electric power utilities and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. to concentrate placing of orders in the first half of fiscal 1992, the daily reported. Measures will also be taken to increase the extension of loans from the Housing Loan Corp., it said.

The newspaper said the government plans to hold a ministerial meeting on the plan in April after Diet approval of the fiscal 1992 budget bills. The program is expected to be put into force immediately, it said.

The daily also said a flexible monetary stance was listed in a draft of the program, which indicated the possibility of another cut in the official discount rate.

Through these measures, the government hopes to achieve a 3.5 percent annual economic growth target in fiscal 1992, the newspaper said.

Cabinet Agrees on Pump-Priming Measures

OW0503124692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and key economic cabinet members agreed Thursday to take measures to stimulate the nation's slowing economy, including encouraging capital investment, the top government spokesman said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said there was no discussion of the official discount rate at the special meeting.

Cabinet members are concerned about the rate of economic growth, and concurred to seek the early passage of 72.22 trillion yen 1992 national budget for fiscal 1992, Kato said. Japan's fiscal year starts in April.

Kato said there was agreement that public works outlays would be allocated in an "appropriate" manner, but said it would be premature to discuss a spending schedule in advance of budget approval.

The plans include encouraging local governments to launch public works as early as possible, he said.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, and other cabinet members.

Other agreed measures were promotion of investments by electric companies and other public service industries, as well as full use of the supplementary budget for fiscal 1991.

This includes full implementation of 600 billion yen of contractual treasury obligations.

Kato said the discount rate was not discussed because the Bank of Japan (BOJ) has authority over monetary policy.

The omission was seen as a move to give the central bank a free hand in managing the discount rate, which has been subject to much comment recently in political circles.

The BOJ's base rate was reduced three times last year. The latest cut in December shaved off 0.5 percentage point to bring it to 4.5 percent.

The ministers met amid calls by the private sector for comprehensive measures to boost the economy.

"It was necessary to coordinate cabinet members' views on the economy," Kato said.

Last month, for the first time since September 1987, the Economic Planning Agency dropped the word "expansion" from its monthly report on the state of the nation's economy, thus admitting officially that the economic growth is slowing.

Miyazawa is also fighting against a downturn in his popularity, which some aides have said they hope can be reversed with an economic recovery.

The government is seeking to achieve a 3.5 percent annual real economic growth rate in fiscal 1992.

—The measures agreed upon by the cabinet ministers are:

—Early enactment of the fiscal 1992 government budget bill and studies on appropriate allocations of public works outlays.

—Full implementation of the fiscal 1991 supplementary budget, including disaster relief projects and 600 billion yen worth of contractual treasury obligations.

—Flexible implementation of individual local projects in consideration of local authorities' financial conditions.

—Special consideration by government-backed financial institutions to loans to small and medium-sized companies to stabilize their management.

—Requests to electric power companies and other public utilities for stepped-up capital spending.

The five-point pump-priming package, tentatively adopted by the Miyazawa administration, won general applause from Japanese business leaders, who said the government has taken relatively quick action to perk up the slowing economy.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called for quick implementation of comprehensive counter-recessionary measures.

However, many business executives doubt whether the "comprehensive" package is worthy of its name.

Referring to the absence of another discount rate reduction by the central bank, currently being called for by some business and political leaders, business executives described it as a move to give the Bank of Japan a free hand in managing the base interest rate.

The business leaders said they feel the discount rate will be lowered later in the month.

On the proposed extension by two government financial institutions of loans to medium- and small-sized businesses to help them invest in labor-saving equipment, Kosaku Inaba, president of Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., said such businesses will certainly step up their investments in robots and other labor-saving equipment.

This will serve to reactivate slowing industrial investment in plant and equipment as a whole, he said.

More Officials Comment on Discount Rate Issue

Keidanren Head Urges Rate Cut

OW0503084892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Nagoya, March 5 KYODO—The head of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Thursday renewed his call for another reduction in the official discount rate to revive the faltering economy.

"Further easing in credit conditions is needed to revive business confidence," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful business national body.

Hiraiwa, who also is chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Co., asked Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to make more efforts to speed up spending on public works and to pass the fiscal 1992 national budget through the Diet as soon as possible.

Hiraiwa said the key to monetary policy is the timing of a cut in the Bank of Japan's [BOJ] official discount rate and he urged BOJ Governor Yasuhi Mieno to ease monetary policy.

Any rate cut, the fourth since last July, should be the last one, Hiraiwa said.

Union Leader: Trim Official Rate

OW0503055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The leader of Japan's largest labor organization called on the government Thursday to trim the official discount rate and step up spending for public works projects to stimulate the economy. Akira Yamagishi, head of the eight-million member Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) urged the government to expand and move up investment in public works projects.

During talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at his official residence, Yamagishi said the government should implement an early cut in the key rate and beef up measures related to land and housing.

Miyazawa declined to comment on a rate cut, saying such action was under the jurisdiction of the governor of the Bank of Japan. He said, however, that he agreed with Yamagishi on the issues on public works spending and other pump-priming measures. Miyazawa said that was why he asked the Diet for early passage of the fiscal 1992 budget. The prime minister said Yamagishi's proposals were very timely.

Miyazawa's cabinet members are expected to discuss ways of spurring the economy later in the day, according to government officials.

Nissho Urges Early Implementation

OW0503074992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Nissho) on Thursday called for early implementation of a package of pump-priming measures including a reduction in the official discount rate.

Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa, also chairman of Kajima Corp., made the request at a regular press conference.

"The deceleration pace is higher pitched than expected. The slowdown will last until the end of this year," Ishikawa said. He was contradicting a widespread outlook that the economy will recover in the second half of the year.

"Calls for another key rate cut are raised among many business circles. The time is ripe (to cut the rate). The ball is in the court of the Bank of Japan governor," Ishikawa said.

The central bank trimmed the key rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum December 30, the third cut since last June.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet is to adopt a package of pump-priming measures Friday morning to revitalize the economy.

"You can call the present slowdown a recession. Without pump-priming measures, the economy might plunge into a negative spiral fall," said Nissho Vice Chairman Norio Ohga, president of Sony Corp., at the press conference.

Analysts Predict Rate Cut

OW0503091592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) will be forced to consider lowering the official discount rate soon because of signs that Japan's economic recovery will be delayed, financial analysts said Thursday.

The analysts said there is a growing view in the central bank that the recovery will be delayed until the October-December quarter of this year, instead of occurring in the July-September quarter as earlier forecast.

The BOJ made the forecast December 30 when it reduced the key rate by a half point to an annual 4.5 percent.

The BOJ so far has maintained a cautious stance toward growing calls among politicians, industrialists, and labor leaders for a cut in the benchmark rate to promote a recovery.

The analysts said the BOJ held that stance because Japanese employment, consumer spending, and capital spending remained strong, making it unlikely that the economy would stall.

They said there also are fears in the BOJ that a rash measure to expedite recovery could force the economy to run into a serious labor shortage and inflation.

Growing signs that the recovery will be delayed, however, are likely to force the BOJ to consider cutting the rate soon, taking into account its own quarterly "tankan" [short-term observation] survey on Japanese business confidence, to be released Friday, various economic indicators, and fluctuations on the foreign exchange market, the analysts said.

Inventory Buildup Said Worse Than in Past

OW0503094892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—The buildup of inventories at many Japanese companies is worse now than during the second oil crisis or the recession prompted by the appreciation of the yen, the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ) said in a report released Thursday.

Inventories are piling up in the assembling sector that includes the electrical machinery, automobile, and machinery industries, which are seeing a drop in demand, the report said.

The full-scale adjustment of inventories in the future is a sign that the economy will take a turn for the worse, it said.

The report compares the phase of the current economic downturn with similar periods in past economic cycles.

It cites an unusual phenomenon in which the inventory-sales ratio in the assembling sector surged last fall.

During slowdowns in past economic cycles, inventories primarily in the materials sector, which includes the chemical and steel industries, have risen.

The report said inventories had piled up because of the sharp fall in demand following a buying binge by consumers and industry which had hoped to buy the goods during the "bubble" economy when money was cheap.

Repercussions from the "bubble" economy have plagued the assembling sector as well as the materials sector and have led to a sudden buildup of inventories, which is contributing to the sluggishness of the economy, it said.

North Korea

Outcome of 4 Mar North-South Meeting Reported

SK0403151492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] A contact between delegates of the two sides was held to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

The fourth contact between delegates of both sides was held on 4 March at Tongilgak, our side's area of Panmunjom, to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

The contact was a closed-door session. After the contact, our side's delegate Choe U-chin gave a news conference and informed the reporters of the status of the contact. According to him, our side stressed that the adjustment of the documents of draft agreement should be thoroughly implemented based on the spirit of the joint denuclearization declaration of the Korean peninsula. The South side agreed with this.

At today's contact, we made it very clear that, regarding Article 1 on the formation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, we are willing to consider the number of committee members, as called for by the South side, to completely finish the adjustment of the documents. We withdrew our demand that two of the committee members be military generals and officers on active duty and agreed to the South side's demand that the members include one or two soldiers on active duty.

Nevertheless, as soon as we entered into discussion of Paragraph 1, Article 2, of the draft agreement, the South side disagreed with our proposal for specifically including a clause on adopting an agreement for fulfilling the joint denuclearization declaration of the Korean peninsula.

Regarding this, our side said that stipulating this clause is to prepare the practical guidelines and measures for fulfilling the joint declaration and to provide a clear way for the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, which will be formed in the future, to work.

However, the South side, without proper reason, said that the words documents of agreement should be excluded. In addition, it insisted impractically and stubbornly that there is no need to adopt an agreement for fulfilling the joint declaration.

Regarding this, our side refuted the South side, saying that it revealed its true intention at last. Our side said: The South side, which remained silent when the government of our Republic presented proposals for 30 years to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, has suddenly announced the absence of nuclear weapons and loudly raised the nuclear inspection question. The South side has an ulterior purpose in this. The South side should not dance to the tune of the United States, which is attempting to overwhelm us by force.

The delegates then continued to discuss Paragraph 2, Article 2. Here again the South side avoided specifically indicating a foreign country's nuclear weapons and nuclear bases and insisted that only clauses on nuclear facilities and exchanges of nuclear information be included. When our side questioned why the South side is opposed to including a foreign country's nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, the South side reluctantly said that a specific clause should be included on exchanging information about the existence of nuclear weapons but insisted that the clause exclude nuclear bases. Then the South side said that the expression nuclear material includes the concept of nuclear weapons.

Taking the South side's claim into consideration, our side proposed that the words nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be specifically included in brackets. However, the South side opposed this as well.

The South side stubbornly opposed specifically indicating in Paragraph 8, Article 2, a clause containing measures for jointly checking an external nuclear threat to the Korean peninsula and for receiving an appropriate international guarantee for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The South side said that this is a separate matter from the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization.

Our side questioned the South side, saying: No matter what non-nuclear policy is put into practice within the nation, denuclearization cannot be implemented if a nuclear threat is forced upon us from the outside. Why do you oppose having the North and the South, the same nation, jointly cope with a nuclear threat forced upon us from the outside? Why is the joint checking of a nuclear threat from outside a separate matter from the implementation of the joint denuclearization?

The South side, helpless to our side's just, fair, and reasonable refutation, said that this matter can be discussed in p !itical subcommittee or military subcommittee meetings in the future. When our side proposed a clause to specifically indicate that this matter shall be referred to the political subcommittee or military subcommittee, the South side opposed this as well.

The two sides basically reached agreement in the discussion of clauses on the operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee in Article 3.

In the discussion of Article 4, the South side repeated an unreasonable and absurd assertion that rules for the procedure and method of inspection should be adopted within one month after the first meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, which is to be formed. When the South side claimed that these matters should be discussed at the delegates contact, when they should be discussed by the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, which is to be formed, our side said that this is an act of arrogation departing from the contact's mission. Our side stressed that the South side's insistence on this matter, which is outside the mission of the delegates' contact, is a tactic to obstruct the formation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee by laying an intentional obstacle in the resolution of the nuclear issue and in the delegates' contact and thereby shifts blame onto us.

Our side then questioned the South side for making remarks that interfere in our internal affairs as it worries about us. Our side stressed that the South side need not worry about us because we live with our own nation-first spirit and because we not only do what we ought to do from the position of independence but have the ability to solve any problem on our own. Our side then urged the South side to live with its own spirit.

The South side, cornered by our just assertion, absurdly said that it would make a counterproposal on the deadline. In this connection, our side warned that the South side should not engage in an act of mockery of the dialogue partner, and made it clear that we are more concerned with the urgency of the inspection than the South side is.

Making repeated concessions to solve this problem in any way, our side again made a counterproposal, stipulating that we use the expression at an early date [pparun siilane] for the deadline so as to facilitate the agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration and nuclear inspection. Nevertheless, the South side did not present any counterproposal and insisted on its claim.

Thus, the adjustment of the draft could not be completed today. The result of the contact today shows that the South side does not show sincerity in the contact but is

resorting to delaying tactics and is desperately maneuvering to avoid at all costs inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

The two sides agreed to hold the next contact on 6 March.

U.S. Nuclear 'Blackmail' Continues Despite Pact

SK0503104392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 5 Mar 92

["Never-Ceasing U.S. Nuclear Blackmail"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 5 (KCNA)—The nuclear blackmail of the U.S. imperialists against the northern half of Korea continues.

The United States and the South Korean authorities are staging war exercises against the North almost every day even after the North and the South promised each other reconciliation and nonaggression and adopted the declaration on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

They are carrying on war games in the areas near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and in the sky above broad areas of the central part of Korea adjacent to the MDL. War planes mobilised in the exercises number some 500-700 a day.

Despite the fact that we signed the nuclear safeguards accord and are making sincere efforts for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the United States and the South Korean authorities are vilifying us, twanging the old tune of fictitious "development of nuclear weapons".

In provoking us who have neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons, the United States and the South Korean authorities seek to invent a pretext to justify their nuclear war provocation moves on the Korean peninsula.

Their act arouses our doubt as regards the announcement of the South Korean chief executive that there is no nuclear weapon in South Korea.

The United States is the very one that gave rise to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula from the 1950s and so it must guarantee the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and stop war exercises coiling up tensions.

The South Korean authorities must not do acts against peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, fawning upon the United States, but choose to sincerely implement the North-South agreement and the denuclearisation declaration.

No Tae-u Speech to Cadets Said 'Confrontational'

SK0403124392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "An Antiquated Confrontational Attitude"]

[Text] With the North-South agreement put into effect, all the fellow countrymen hope more ardently that the day will come soon when they can live in a reunified fatherland. However, acts running counter to this desire of the fellow countrymen are being committed one after another in South Korea. A speech delivered by the South Korean person in administrative authority at what was known as a ceremony of commissioning cadets on 29 February is a case in point. In this speech, he, pretending as if he were making some kind of effort to achieve reconciliation and cooperation between the North and South, referred to such terms as (?doing one's utmost). He babbled that without strength to preserve peace, there cannot be national survival or reunification.

This shows that the South Korean authorities have not yet freed themselves from the antiquated confrontational attitude even after signing the North-South agreement.

As is widely known, the North-South agreement clearly spells out the principles to which the North and South should mutually abide and practice on the road to peaceful reunification, including the need for the two sides to achieve reconciliation and unity, not to invade the other side with armed forces, and to settle differences in opinion and disputes through dialogue and negotiations. So, only if the North and South correctly put the agreement into practice can peace be preserved and, going one step farther, can national reunification, too, be hastened.

Now that the North and South have committed themselves to reconciliation and nonaggression, why is it necessary to have strength? What will it support? In spite of this, the South Korean authorities are babbling about strength even now that the agreement has been put into effect. This shows that they have no intention to sincerely put the agreement into practice.

In fact, the South Korean authorities act dubiously and have a dagger up their sleeve. Even after the North-South agreement was adopted, they have visited the Army, Navy, and Air Force headquarters and urged them to support the South-North talks with strength. They babbled about the need to secure a core strategy, with the emphasis on quality, in a bid to fan confrontation. Recently they have decided to buy 20 ultramodern air force training aircraft from the United Kingdom and nearly 1,000 Mistral antiaircraft missiles from France under the pretext of diversifying weapons systems. Also, in collusion with the U.S. imperialist aggressors, they are straining the situation by conducting war exercises aimed at invading the North almost every day.

These facts, products of the confrontational policy, prove that the South Korean authorities, while paying lip service to the effectuation of the agreement, are in practice not interested in it. They are engrossed only in realizing reunification by prevailing over communism by further accelerating war preparations behind the curtain of dialogue.

The dubious acts by the South Korean authorities are an act of breaching faith with us, the opposite side to the talks, as well as a heinous challenge to the desire of the entire fellow countrymen for reunification.

It is universal knowledge that the successive ruling bunches have babbled about peace on the one hand and then aggravated tensions through military buildup and clung to war maneuvers against the fellow countrymen on the other hand. Those currently in power in South Korea are now treading in the treacherous steps of their predecessors, who, after the 1972 publication of the 4 July South-North joint statement, declared it an empty piece of paper with no contents and ran riot in war maneuvers, calling for confrontation accompanied by dialogue.

Resorting to strength under the billboard of peace and achieving reunification by prevailing over communism by resorting to war are anachronistic daydreams. Under no circumstances will the nation condone this. The South Korean authorities should abandon the confrontational attitude running counter to the desire and aspirations of the nation and sincerely fulfill the North-South agreement. Toward this end, they should remove the concealed dagger from their sleeve before anything else.

Kim Il-song Efforts for Chuche Cause Lauded

SK0203122492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 2 Mar 92

["Respected Comrade Kim Il-song Is Great Leader Who Has Laid Eternal Foundations for Final Victory of Cause of Chuche"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—Respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader who has laid solid foundations for carrying out the revolution of our age in the whole course of his protracted revolutionary activities, says NODONG SINMUN in a lengthy by-liner today.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Everything most valuable and proud to our country and people is linked with the august name of the leader."

The article says:

Today our people have all valuable gains and wealth necessary to accomplish the cause of socialism under the banner of chuche in face of any adversities and difficulties. The guiding idea and the party, the staff of the revolution, are the best and the socialist system is also the most superior one in which the people enjoy their life. The great revolutionary traditions have fully displayed their great vitality, strong internal revolutionary forces have been built up and the material and technical foundations of socialism consolidated remarkably.

Elaborating on the revolutionary feats performed by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who has provided a firm guarantee for the accomplishment of the cause of chuche, the article notes:

What is most important in his feats is that he founded the great revolutionary idea to put in the hands of our people an invincible ideological and theoretical weapon, and established great revolutionary traditions to put our revolution on an eternal basis for making a long drive.

The article continues:

Comrade Kim Il-song built a chuche-type party, the most dignified party in our age, and wisely guided the whole party and the entire people to be rallied rock-firm behind the party Central Committee. It takes an important place in the revolutionary feats of Comrade Kim Il-song who has provided a firm guarantee for the completion of the cause of chuche.

Today, in our country, the invincible Workers' Party of Korea is finding itself in the centre of the revolutionary ranks and the masses of the people who have shared the same destiny with the party in the long-drawn revolutionary struggle are united closely around the party. Indestructible is the unity of our party and our people closely rallied as a socio-political organism. Herein lie the source of the invincibility of our socialism and a definite guarantee of all our victory.

Our socialist system established by Comrade Kim Il-song is not only solid politically and ideologically but also powerful materially and technically.

With matchless, distinguished greatness, Comrade Kim Il-song has been able to perform undying feats in all fields and sections of the revolution and construction.

He is the great genius produced by our age and is the most veteran and prominent thinker, theoretician and statesman of the international communist movement. Apart from his distinguished greatness, experienced leadership and unrivalled grit and noble popular traits, any wealth and gains are unthinkable.

He, with unexcelled courage, iron will and devoted service for the people and with intensive and allround activities, has led the struggle of all stages and forms in the revolution and construction of our age to lay solid foundations for the accomplishment of the cause of chuche, the article notes, and stresses:

After embarking upon the road of revolution in his early years, Comrade Kim Il-song triumphantly led the 20 years of the anti-Japanese revolution and nearly 50 years

of creation and construction, thus laying eternal foundations of our revolution to advance ever victoriously. He is steadily effecting an upsurge in socialist construction with tireless efforts. Therefore, our revolution has advanced constantly along the road of victory without the least stagnation and slowdown and a bright prospect has opened for our country and nation.

Pointing out that the solid foundations of our revolution have been further consolidated under the party's leadership, displaying ever greater vitality with each passing day, the article says:

A firm guarantee for defending the purity of the wealth of eternal value gained by Comrade Kim Il-song and glorifying it for ever has been created in our country. It is our people's greatest glory and happiness that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding leader of our party and our people and the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces, is guiding the whole party, all the people and the whole army along an ever-victorious road.

Our party, conscious of its mission, has waged all forms of struggle and activities with unfailing loyalty to the revolutionary cause of the respected leader and has made a distinguished contribution to consolidating and glorifying the eternal foundations of our revolution laid by him.

Our party regards it as the starting point of its activities and as its greatest mission to steadfastly defend and glorify the undying feats performed by the respected leader and, on the basis of the feats, has won new, great victory and achievements in all domains of the revolution and construction, the article says, and adds:

Our party has unfolded a grand plan to develop socialist construction to a higher stage and is now leading the entire people to victory.

Kim Chong-il Praises Work Team Members

SK0303101892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] There are countless cases of good conduct by three revolutions work team members in vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technical, cultural—in various domains of the national economy. Dozens of three revolutions work team members who have come to clearly know the place of young intellectuals armed with the chuche idea and modern science and technology in the process of conducting their activities amid the seething realities have now resolved to permanently settle in the domains to which they were assigned and to bring their youthful ideals and hope to full bloom.

After hearing about their conduct, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il called it good behavior and highly praised them. He said that the new generation of the young intellectuals who have been trained in the three revolutions work teams after receiving chuche-oriented education in the bosom of the great leader and party are definitely different from others.

The dear comrade leader, who is always deeply interested in the work and life of the three revolutions work team members, has taken measures for the party organizations to actively help them in their work so that they can satisfactorily translate into action their determination to permanently settle in the difficult and hard domains.

A resolution meeting of the three revolutions work team members was held on 25 February at the Central Youth Hall to loyally live up to the party's high political trust and consideration.

Attending the meeting were Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, and other functionaries concerned, along with work team members.

A speech by Comrade Choe Tae-pok at the meeting was followed by debates in which (Chong Hak-chun), head of the three revolutions work team at (Songjong) cooperative farm in (Chungsan) County; Pak Hak, member of the three revolutions work team at Tokhyon Mine; and Yu Hae-chol, member of the three revolutions work team at the modern daily necessities plant in Sinhung County, participated.

The speaker and those participating in the debates said that the great political trust and consideration that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has shown to the three revolutions work team members who have decided to settle permanently at the domains to which they had been assigned is an expression of his great affection and trust for all the three revolutions work team members.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Young men should deeply grasp the justness of the great leader's teachings and the party's policies and their vitality through their practical struggle in socialist construction, they should nurture a tenacious will, and they should establish the revolutionary spirit of unconditionality.

The speaker and the participants in the debates discussed the fact that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated the directions and methods to the vanguard units of the three revolutions work teams from the day the work teams began their activities. He took good care of them in every aspect of their lives with actual concern.

Agreeing that it is natural for the three revolutions work team members, who have grown up thanks to the party's affection and consideration, to resolve to settle in the difficult and hard sectors of socialist construction, the speaker and the participants in the debates said that it is a decision anyone among the new generation of young intellectuals who have received chuche-oriented education can make with ease. They offered the greatest honor

and warmest gratitude to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has always led the three revolutions comrades-in-arms [samdae hyongmyong chonudul] on a single road leading to victory and glory and has shown them great affection and consideration, reflecting the unanimous loyalty of the participants in the meeting.

The speaker and the participants in the debates said that the members of the three revolutions work teams now face a task to unite all the working people around our party more firmly than ever by vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technical, cultural—and to accelerate the cause of making the national economy chuche-oriented, modern, and science-oriented. They have the cause of turning all members of society into intellectuals, upholding the tasks explained in the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classic work "Historic Lesson in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line." They noted that the members of the young intellectuals who have resolved to permanently settle in the difficult and hard units of the industry should always remember the party's great trust and consideration for them, translate what they have learned at college into action in their activities, and solve urgent questions in a timely manner, thereby normalizing production at a high level and actively contributing to strengthening the nation's economic might. They said that the young intellectuals determined to settle in the rural areas should upgrade the level of irrigation and electrification of the rural economy, actively realize the mechanization and chemicalization of the rural economy during 1992, the year of putting greater effort into agriculture, thereby affecting a new upsurge in agricultural production by completely implementing the demands of the chuche-oriented farming method, and hasten the complete realization of the socialist rural thesis.

The speaker and the participants in the debates said that they will live up to the party's lofty political trust and consideration loyally by giving full play to the superiority of socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses and by keeping a vigorous movement to win the red flag of the three revolutions in place, with the conviction that our leader [suryong] and our party are the greatest.

The participants in the meeting adopted a letter of resolution.

Kim Chong-il Stresses Fundamentals of Socialism

SK0203101692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0523 GMT 2 Mar 92

["Fundamental Principle of Socialism That Must Be Consistently Maintained in Revolution and Construction"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article March 1 calls for maintaining the principle of socialism in the revolution and construction.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"In order to accomplish the socialist cause we must consistently maintain the socialist principle in the revolution and construction."

The article continues:

The fundamental principle that must be consistently maintained in the building of socialism is to strictly defend the demand of the popular masses for independence and their interests and carry them to materialization.

The desire of the popular masses, the makers of history, is to build a new society free from exploitation and oppression, where all people lead an independent and creative life as the master of the state and society and of their destiny.

Therefore, a working-class party, in leading the building of socialism, must resolutely defend the demand of the popular masses for independence and their interests and solve all the questions arising in the revolution and construction in the fundamental interests of the popular masses.

In order to build socialism in conformity with the demand of the popular masses for independence and their fundamental interests, it is necessary to strengthen the working-class party organisationally and ideologically, firmly guarantee its guidance over the revolution and construction, steadily enhance the function and role of the socialist power, defend and develop the socialist ownership and resolutely fight against imperialism. This is the revolutionary principle that does not allow the slightest concession.

What is basic here is the guidance of the party and the leader.

The party's leadership is vital to the cause of socialism.

Only when the party is strengthened and its leadership is firmly guranteed, is it possible to consistently maintain the revolutionary principle in socialist construction, smash to atoms the anti-socialist manoeuvrings of the imperialists, resolutely defend the cause of socialism and dynamically advance it.

If we make concessions as regards the revolutionary principle and abandon it gradually, wavering in face of temporary difficulties and yielding to the pressure of the imperialists, we will face grave consequences beyond imagination.

It is of particular importance in defending the fundamental principle of socialism to sharpen vigilance against "pluralism" loudly advertised by the imperialists and decisively reject it.

"Liberalism" in ideology, "multiparty system" in politics and "diversification" in the form of ownership

which is sought in "pluralism" are the mode of politics characteristic of capitalist society in which competition for survival based on individualism and liberalism is dominant.

The socialist society is based on collectivism and its life and blood is the unity of the popular masses. Therefore, socialism is incompatible with "pluralism."

Permitting liberalism in ideology and a multiparty system in politics is, in the long run, to destroy the foundation of socialism.

If we, losing faith in socialism and captive to illusion about capitalism, completely discard the principle of socialism and fully introduce the capitalist mode of politics and economic system, socialism will be frustrated and capitalism be revived.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said that concession and retreat of one step from the principle of socialism lead to concession and retreat of ten, nay one hundred steps, and stressed that it must be maintained to the last under any circumstances.

Symposium Studies Kim Chong-il Work on Socialism

SK0503110092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 5 (KCNA)—A national symposium on "Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party," an immortal classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was held at the People's Palace of Culture today.

It was attended by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, and officials concerned.

The speakers noted that Comrade Kim Chong-il in his classical work scientifically elaborated the historical lesson in the building of socialism, dealing a decisive blow at the reactionary sophism of the imperialists and the renegades of socialism and clarifying that it is an undeniable law of historic development for mankind to advance toward socialism.

The work serves as an inspiring banner which powerfully encourages progressive mankind to invariably defend socialism with belief in the justness of the cause of socialism, conviction of victory and resolute adherence to principle, said the speakers.

They explained that the work is a great program of the building of communism, which comprehensively analyses and generalises the validity and truth of the general line of our party in the building of socialism and communism on the socio-historical principles of chuche.

The general line of our party in the building of socialism and communism is to strengthen the people's government, constantly enhance its role and thoroughly carry out the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions, they noted, adding that this is a revolutionary banner which indicates the true way of successfully realising the independence of the masses.

The publication of the work provides an ideological weapon to successfully foil the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and modern revisionists and opens wide the way of achieving the worldwide victory of the cause of socialism, the speakers stressed.

South Korea

Security Forces Expect Entry of Iraqi Terrorists

SK0503012292 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 5 Mar 92 p 23

[Text] Information has been received that around the scheduled 23 April inaugural flight of a chartered Israeli airline to Seoul, an Iraqi terrorist group plans to sneak into our country in order to commit terrorist activities. Airport security authorities are currently on alert and are tightening clearance checks of people from the Middle East.

Three Iraqi terrorists elements, who were confirmed by the airport security authorities on 4 March, are (Abdul al-Amir Ali), (Shaid Abdo al-Husayn), and (Amad al-Hidai).

These people are members of a secret Iraqi terrorist ring who received terrorist training against the countries that supported the combined forces during the Gulf war. They received an order from the supreme head of the organization to infiltrate our country to coincide with the inaugural flight of the chartered Israeli airline.

The airport police force decided to check all activity of people arriving from the Middle East on an individual basis starting mid- March.

Meanwhile, the Exit and Entry Control Bureau of the Justice Ministry decided to put personal details about these terrorists into the computer wherever entry is screened. Also, in case they try to enter our country with forged passports, airport employees are receiving special training on how to recognize forgeries. The bureau also decided to tighten clearance checkups of people coming in from the Middle East.

Customs will also use dogs that were used to find drugs to search for explosives, thus thoroughly checking the baggage of people from the Middle East for explosives.

Iraq is currently regarding countries that supported the combined forces, which was headed by the United States, as hostile and is attempting to commit terrorist acts against these countries by infiltrating them. It was

learned that many terrorist groups are carrying out underground activities in these countries.

U.S. Banking 'Discrimination' Criticized

SK0403072492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea strongly demanded last month that the United States eliminate its regulatory discrimination against the operations of Korean banks and other financial institutions in America, Finance Ministry officials said Wednesday.

Korean officials explained Seoul's financial market opening plan to Jerry Newman, director of the Eastern European Division of the U.S. Treasury Department, and other U.S. officials, and called for the eradication of restrictions on Korean financial institutions based on the principle of reciprocity, during the Uruguay Round financial group negotiations in Geneva Feb. 24-28, the officials said.

Newman was told that Korean banks find it difficult to appropriate funds because they are barred from taking deposits and because their operations are restricted to certain areas.

Korean institutions also face trouble because banks can make investments only with savings registered with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC).

In the State of New York, foreign banks are disqualified from intermediate stocks and bonds.

Finance-related regulations and rules vary from one state to another in the United States hindering the operations of Korean institutions to a great extent.

These points will be raised again in the Korea-U.S. financial policy talks in Washington on March 10. Second Assistant Finance Minister Yi Hwan-kyun and Olin Wethington, assistant Treasury secretary for international affairs, will head the delegations.

Official Ties With SRV Likely by End of March

SK0503084192 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 5 Mar 92 p 1

[By correspondent Yi Pong-ho from Ho Chi Minh City]

[Excerpt] It appears that the ROK and Vietnam may establish diplomatic relations within March, at the earliest.

A high-ranking Vietnamese Government official said on 4 March that "working-level negotiations have been under way to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries." He also said that "the two countries will be able to establish diplomatic relations within this month."

The ROK and Vietnam may be able to establish diplomatic relations earlier than expected because the Vietnamese Government's efforts to improve relations with the United States have been under way in a favorable direction. [passage omitted]

Seoul, Tokyo Agree To Extend Fishing Regulations

SK0503103692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0936 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—Korea and Japan have agreed to extend their self-imposed regulations on fishing in the waters adjacent to Korea's Cheju Island and Japan's Hokkaido for an additional three years, the National Fisheries Administration said Thursday.

The two countries agreed to keep up self-imposed controls for the safety and orderly operations of their fishing boats in the waters, an official said.

The agreement came after seven rounds of official and two rounds of unofficial negotiations since April last year. The previous bilateral accord on the self-regulations expired at the end of last year.

They will exchange documents for the extension on Friday, it was said.

President Says North Still Poses Threat

SK0503021692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Chongju, Chungchongbuk-do—President No Tae-u said yesterday that the South still faces the threat of a possible attack from North Korea, despite the recent improvement in inter-Korean relations.

"The world has entered an era of reconciliation and arms reduction, but we cannot say for sure that competition of power among states and the possibility of regional conflicts have been removed," No said while addressing the 40th commencement ceremony of the Air Force Academy.

"Although inter-Korean relations have been improving rapidly, we cannot rule out the possibility of an incident on the peninsula, particularly when we consider the unstable situation in North Korea," the President said.

Emphasizing the importance of air power in modern warfare, No asked the graduating cadets to exert their best efforts to develop new aviation technology as well as warfare strategy and tactics.

Envoy to U.S. Discusses Inspections of North

SK0503083692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—Inspection of North Korea's Yongbyon facilities may not be enough to completely dispel the suspicion that Pyongyang is developing

a nuclear weapons capability, Hyon Hong-chu, South Korean ambassador to the United States, said Thursday.

He had no evidence that North Korea was removing nuclear materials or facilities from Yongbyon to hide them before allowing in foreign inspectors, Hyon told a press conference.

Given North Korea's past attitude, however, it is entirely possible that Pyongyang might try to hide them, he said.

South and North Korea may conduct nuclear inspections without ever fully verifying that there is no atomic weapons development capability in the North, the ambassador said.

"This is our worst nightmare," he said.

Hyon returned to Seoul to attend the chiefs of overseas mission conference that opened Thursday.

Seoul and Washington were talking about a U.S. presence on the inter-Korean nuclear inspection teams, Hyon said.

South Korea may seek assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or ask Russian nuclear experts for advice, he said.

"The U.S. position is that it has offered to open up its bases in South Korea to inter-Korean nuclear inspection and thus has the right to participate in the inspection process," Hyon said.

"This is a reasonable request," he said. "We are presently negotiating U.S. participation."

Asked what would fully dispel suspicion against North Korea's nuclear development, the ambassador said a look inside Yongbyon was the first goal.

"Experts say a close look by experienced eyes will dissolve suspicions. To make further demands at this point to other than Yongbyon facilities may weaken out first goal," he said.

"If an inspection on Yongbyon is not enough, then we will have to think of further action. It would not be appropriate now to talk about such further action based on imagined scenario," he said.

North Korea appears to be delaying inspection to earn time, but Hyon warned that this would invite other nations to intervene in inter-Korean issues that should be handled by the two Koreas.

The IAEA will take action if North Korea delays inspection and the United Nations will also take action, Hyon said.

"This would put South-North Korean bilateral issues on a global stage after all our efforts to keep them between Seoul and Pyongyang," he said.

North Korea seems to want outside intervention to get closer to the United States and Japan, Hyon said, but Washington sent a clear message during high-level contact in January that in order to get to Tokyo or Washington, Pyongyang must go through Seoul.

Chiefs of Missions Conference Opens 5 Mar

SK0503042492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0313 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—A chiefs of diplomatic mission conference opened Thursday morning with 97 ambassadors and consul-generals participating in discussions about South Korea's unification and economic diplomacy.

"Inter-Korean matters should be settled between South and North Koreans themselves for common prosperity of the people," Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said in the opening ceremony.

"We need to create an international atmosphere for peace on the Korean peninsula and solution of problems surrounding the peninsula through stronger diplomatic cooperation with our neighboring countries," he said.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok emphasized the economic front.

"As South Korea's diplomatic missions fulfilled their duties in the '60s and '70s for export promotion, they must now contribute to economic recovery through concentrated efforts on economic and trade diplomacy and science and industrial technology cooperation," he said.

Relations are growing diligently with China and South Korea expects diplomatic normalization in the near future, he said.

The meeting lasts until March 10 with general and regional group conferences.

The political general conference will deal with the changing situation around the Korean peninsula and South Korea's unification diplomacy, while the economic general conference will discuss the Urguay Round and trade matters.

The regional conferences are divided into Asia, America, Europe and the Middle East and Africa. Diplomatic aims with Indochinese countries, North Korea-Japan diplomatic talks, the emergence of the European Community and ties with Third-World countries will be addressed in these conferences.

DPRK-CIS Accord Not To Include Arms Sales

SK0503054892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0518 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—The military document signed Tuesday between North Korea and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is about

military personnel exchanges and does not include anything about arms sales, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The South Korean Embassy in Moscow verified that the document was an exchange plan for 1992-1993 and not a military cooperation pact, the official said.

Col. Gen. Victor Samsonov, chief of the CIS Armed Forces General Staff, and his North Korean counterpart, Choe Kwang, signed the document in Pyongyang.

Wire reports said Samsonov and Choe talked about arms sales and quoted Russian officials as saying that North Korea would purchase CIS weapons with cash.

South Korea and the former Soviet Union verified at the first policy consultation meeting in January last year that Moscow will not supply arms to North Korea, the ministry official said.

The Russian Federation acknowledged the treaty of friendship and mutual assistance the former Soviet Union signed with North Korea in 1961, but it plans to review and revise the parts on military cooperation, he said.

"Even if the CIS sells arms to North Korea, it's highly likely that the sales will be limited to parts for weapons the Soviet Union sold to Pyongyang," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is expected in Seoul around March 18. South Korea plans to explain its position on North Korea-CIS military cooperation and ask Russia to adhere to international efforts to deter Pyongyang's nuclear weapons development.

North-CIS Military Pact Called 'Embarrassing'

SK0503024092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "CIS-NK Military Pact"]

[Text] The report that North Korea and the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] have signed a military cooperation agreement is embarrassing, as the purpose of the accord is believed to be facilitation of the CIS's sales of weapons to the North.

The signing was performed by the CIS's Chief of General Staff and First Vice Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Armed Forces Viktor Samsonov and the North Korean Chief of General Staff Choe Kwang, closely following a report that the CIS mission had agreed with Beijing on the sale of 24 Russian Su-27 fighters.

At the same time, CIS and Pyongyang may have consulted on their 1961 treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, which has been a virtual dead letters since Seoul and Moscow normalized their relations.

With Gorbachev's reform policies, the Pyongyang-Moscow ties had been chilled, but the two former allies seem to be moving toward reconciliation due to mutual necessity, particularly in military links, instead of ideological bonds.

Moscow apparently holds to the position that if Seoul wanted to buy its weapons, it would sell them to it too, as in the case of North Korea. Ostensibly, the Moscow stand is fair with regard to the two Koreas.

Yet, CIS should take into consideration the North's secret development of nuclear weapons in defiance of the international call for nuclear non-proliferation. Moreover, it is not clear whether or not former Soviet nuclear technicians are still helping the development of a nuclear weapon capability in the North.

Japan Group Said To Aid Family's Defection

SK0503071592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, March 5 (YONHAP)—The pro-Pyongyang Association of Korean Residents in Japan, Chochongnyon, arranged the defection of a South Korean family to North Korea in late January, YONHAP learned Thursday.

The defection was reported Wednesday by Pyongyang's official KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY.

Cho Won-taek, 40, defected with his wife, two children and mother to escape poverty at the urging of Chochongnyon, sources here said.

Cho reportedly visited Japan several times late last year on a tourist passport to work on construction sites there, and he and his wife were encouraged to defect to North Korea by Chochongnyon while on a trip to Japan in mid-January.

Police in Pusan are questioning friends and relatives for a clue to Cho's reasons for defecting.

After graduating from Chonnam National University's Economics Department in 1985, Cho moved to Pusan and rented a two-room house in Tongnae.

Unable to find stable work in Pusan, he got a job on a construction site and his wife, Kim Mi-chon, 33, a nurse, worked at a hospital.

"The family didn't have much contact with the neighbors, but we heard Cho's 62-year-old mother saying they were living from hand to mouth because her son didn't have a proper job," a neighbor said.

New Assistants to Prime Minister Appointed

SK0503104192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1002 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—Kim Ok-cho, special asssitant to the director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), was appointed senior secretary to the prime minister Thursday.

Kim was replaced by Yun Yo-chun, assistant to the first state minister, at the NSP.

Yun Ki-pyong, assistant to the second state minister, was named to succeed Yun while Yi Hyon-ku, public information secretary to the prime minister, was appointed assistant to the second state minister.

1991 Employment Statistics Released

SK0503103292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—An increasing number of workers took jobs in the service industry rather than in the manufacturing sector last year, and the unemployment rate was the lowest in recorded history, the National Statistical Office said Thursday.

The unemployment rate in 1991 was 2.3 percent, with workers in the 15-29 age group and those with college education suffering the highest rate of unemployment, it said.

There were more unemployed in cities than in rural areas.

According to the office's report on the working population and its trend in 1991, there were 19,012,000 working people, a rise of 525,000 from a year earlier. Of the total population, those with jobs accounted for about 60.6 percent, up 0.6 percentage points from 1990.

It said 18,576,000 people were employed in 1991, up by 520,000 or 3 percent from 1990. The number of the unemployed was 436,000, down by 15,000 or 0.1 percentage point to 2.3 percent.

By industry, the number who worked in agriculture and forestry declined by 189,000 and those who worked in manufacturing rose by 89,000. The number who worked in public services sector and other service industries registered the sharpest increase with 652,000 amid a construction boom.

The proportion of workers in manufacturing industries to the total workforce was 26.6 percent, down from 26.9 percent in 1990, and that of agriculture and forestry workers, 16.7 percent, down from 18.3 percent in 1990.

The proportion of workers in the service industry to the working population, on the other hand, rose from 54.4 percent in 1990 to 56.4 percent, the report said.

Unemployment among men was 2.5 percent, down 0.4 point from 1990. The decline was attributed to a construction boom and soaring demand for workers in such heavy industries as machinery and petrochemical, where men were preferred. The report said women's unemployment rose 0.2 point to 2 percent because of sluggishness in the shoe and textile industries, where more female workers are traditionally hired.

Among those with middle school or lower educations, the unemployment rate was lowest at 1.1 percent, rising among high school graduates to 3.2 percent and among university and college graduates to 3.6 percent.

By age, unemployment was highest in the 15-19 age group at 9.3 percent, down from 9.1 percent in 1990. It was followed by the 20- 29 group, 5 percent, up from 4.9 percent. The rate for the 30-59 group was 1.1 percent, down from 1.3 percent, and for those 60 and older it was 0.3 percent, down from 0.4 percent.

The report attributed the higher unemployment rate for youths to the "three-D phenomena," or the tendency to avoid dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs.

Opposition Head Criticizes Northern Policy

SK0403003492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Chong Chu-yong yesterday criticized President No Tae-u's government's policy toward North Korea yesterday.

Despite years of efforts, the government's bid to improve relations with the North is "back to its starting point," Chong claimed.

Speaking at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents Club, Chong, leader of the Unification National Party [UNP], contended the government's failure to solve the nuclear question on the peninsula is due to its "lack of political capability and information" on Pyongyang's nuclear facilities.

"All the government's efforts came to naught by a single comment from (North Korean President) Kim Il-song that he would not discuss any matters with the South until American forces are withdrawn from the South," Chong said.

He said the government should hand over the task of implementing nuclear inspections on the North to the United Nations-led international efforts.

In a speech prior to the question and answer session, the UNP leader urged the national task of reunification "should never be monopolized by the government and should never degenerate into a means of propagating the government in this election year."

"Nor should the task be exploited to enhance the reputation and achievement of an individual," he said.

The former Hyundai Business Group chairman condemned the government's economic policies, reaffirming his belief an additional five-year rule of the same ruling party would drive the nation's trade deficit to $120-130 billion.

If his UNP should take power it would turn the nation's trade balance to a $30 billion surplus in the first three years of its rule, he said.

The party would do so by selling more goods to the Japanese market and reinvigorate the economy by lowering the current high interest rates.

While believing in free-market values, his party is opposed to opening the nation's rice market, he said.

"It is an exception to our party's policy to support free trade," he said.

The United States should ask Japan, which enjoys a huge trade surplus with Washington, to open its rice market before it turns its eye on South Korea's rice market which suffers a trade deficit with it, he said.

'Illegal Electioneering' by Government Claimed

SK0403003992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, arguing that President No Tae-u has been making unrealistic election campaign pledges, yesterday urged him to stop his "intervention" in the electioneering.

Kim, co-leader of the Democratic Party [DP], contended that the President should avoid making pledges that may become a burden on the next President, or which he may find it difficult to honor. Kim pointed out that No's single five-year tenure is to expire in a year.

President No has announced some development projects on his recent local tours.

Kim claimed that all administrative agencies have been intervening in the campaigns to aid the ruling party candidates for a victory in the March 24 legislative elections.

"We can't but believe that the President is actively controlling or is involved in illegal electioneering and that security forces are working under him," the opposition leader said.

He demanded that the Agency for National Security Planning stop its political surveillance over the DP candidates and independents who were previously affiliated with the ruling party.

Kim alleged that the agency had prevented Pak Chong-kun, chairman of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, from joining his party. Pak had allegedly been nominated as the party's candidate for the national-constituency seat, but recently said he would not run for the elections, Kim said.

Kim said that he would sue So Tong-kwon, director of the counter- intelligence agency, against its illegal campaign activities unless it would stop its "meddling" into politics.

But No Saturday denied the government's interference in election campaigns in an interview with a local daily, saying his administration has never pressured those who were dropped from the ruling party's nomination to keep them from running in the elections as independents.

Ministers Decide on Strict Monetary Control

SK0403072292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The government, in a bid to stop the inflationary spiral triggered by the upcoming general elections, has decided to exercise strict monetary control and to discourage real estate speculation and rises in service charges.

The decision came Tuesday in a meeting of 15 cabinet ministers presided over by Choe Kak-kyu, deputy prime minister and head of the Economic Planning Board.

The ministers decided to impose strong anti-inflationary measures after agreeing that March will be the crucial month in the government's efforts to stabilize consumer prices in 1992.

"The stability of prices this year depends on how effectively we control prices this month," Choe told the meeting. "Since in addition to the elections, March traditionally is the month of price increases with moving for many families, the beginning of the new school year and a start of construction business."

Choe urged the ministers to try and hold price rises under 3 percent in the first quarter of the year since the country was able to maintain price increases at 1.3 percent in the first two months of this year.

The ministers decided to maintain the money supply at a quarterly target of 18.5 percent, despite an expected rise in demand for money because of the elections. The government will try to check the flow of industrial loans and other funds into election campaigns.

The government will send official teams to areas liable to attract real estate speculation and investigate if the prices of land rise more than 2 to 3 percent from the previous quarter or if the amount of transactions increases by more than 10 percent from a year ago.

As for the overheated construction industry, the government plans to extend restrictions on the construction of commercial buildings due to expire at the end of March.

Earlier, the government expressed concern and said it was considering keeping the restrictions in place for another six months after construction permits rose 27.4 percent in January from a year ago.

Regarding service charges, the government will keep tabs on the movement of prices at some 46,000 establishments such as restaurants, barber's shops and public bath houses. If any of those establishments raises their charges, the government will conduct a tax investigation.

In Seoul, the government will set up some 550 "price report centers" for consumers in order to trace price movements.

On wage increases, the government reiterated its resolution to hold them to 5 percent or less. It will provide administrative guidance for about 15,000 private business enterprises while trying to help stop the flow of manpower to election campaigns from the manufacturing sector.

In addition, the government will help increase shipments of paper, soap and towels, demand for which rises at the time of elections. It will also increase the supply of fruit by 3,600 tons and of imported beef to 400 tons a day, up from 340 tons.

Hyundai Appeals for End of Financial Sanctions

SK0103004592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0632 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 29 (YONHAP)—The Hyundai group, saying it was in a crisis, appealed to the Finance Ministry, the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination and the Securities Supervisory Board Saturday to promptly end their "financial sanctions" against the group.

A letter signed by group Chairman Chong Se-yong and the presidents of 33 Hyundai affiliates said the group was in an operational crisis due to "a set of financial sanctions by the government authorities."

They asked the monetary authorities to lift a ban on 425.6 billion won (560 million U.S. dollars) in credits from the Korean Development Bank and on another 100.1 billion won in credits that city banks earlier promised but are withholding.

Hyundai also asked for the suspension of sanctions on direct financing totaling 374.9 billion won—68.7 billion won in new rights issues, 121.3 billion won in some affiliates' going public and the floating of debentures worth 184.9 billion won.

It called for the lifting of various other restrictive credits and for a decision on Hyundai's planned increase in its capital in the Kuktong Oil Co.

The Hyundai leaders claimed that unless these sanctions were removed, some 40 affiliates would be driven into bankruptcy.

They said that the money being used by the Unification National Party, formed by Hyundai owner Chong Chu-yong, had nothing to do with the Hyundai group.

"No money has ever flowed to former chairman Chong Chu-yong from the Hyundai group," the letter said.

The letter charges that it is against basic democratic order for the government to impose financial sanctions against the group by mobilizing the taxational, monetary and securities supervisory offices.

Upon receipt of the letter, Finance Minister Yi Yong-man called in related officials to review it and the consensus was that there were no intentional sanctions by the government.

Chong has asserted that the government has applied various sanctions against Hyundai for a couple of years.

At various political gatherings, he has begun to blast the government for causing Korea's economic difficulties by its inability to manage the economy properly.

Institutions Deny Hyundai Sanctioned

SK0303080192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—The Office of Bank Supervision officially rejected Tuesday charges it has imposed financial sanctions against the Hyundai Group.

Replying to an appeal by the heads of Hyundai Group companies for an end to "financial sanctions," the office jointly with the Securities Supervisory Board, the Foreign Exchange Bank and the Korean Development Bank said it was untrue they had blocked plans by Hyundai to expand paid shares and float company debentures or that they had suspended bank loans to Hyundai.

They said Hyundai was having difficulty placing its promissory notes because of "voluntary restraint" in the purchase of Hyundai bills by general investors and short-term financial firms, not because of financial sanctions.

On Feb. 29, an appeal signed by the heads of 40 affiliates of the group called for an end to "financial sanctions" and warned they were being driven to the brink of bankruptcy.

Contrary to Hyundai's assertion, credits to Hyundai firms have increased since the turn of the year, the reply said.

Hyundai's claim that its plan to float 184.9 billion won (240 million U.S. dollars) in company debentures was not allowed was wrong, it said, as it was simply the policy of the Securities Supervisory Board to treat large companies less favorably than small companies in reviewing applications to issue debentures.

Contrary to Hyundai's assertions, the group was allowed to float conversion issues to cover maturing debentures, it said.

The Foreign Exchange Bank, Hyundai's main bank, did not reject Hyundai's request for 78.6 billion won in credits since May 1991 and 10 billion won requested by Hyundai Electronics was released in February. The remainder was never even requested, it said.

Hyundai says it was excluded from the allocation of facilities funds by the Development Bank, but no facilities funds have been allocated to any firm so far this year, the official reply said.

Burma

Chinese Aero-Technology Delegation Visits

K-8 Jet Demonstration Held

BK0503030292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] A delegation from the China Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation which arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] yesterday staged a flying demonstration of the K-8 jet trainer at Yangon International Airport today at 0930. The K-8 jet trainer is jointly manufactured by China and Pakistan.

It was attended by senior officials from the Air Force, the director general of the Directorate of Air Transport, the managing director of the Myanmar [Burma] Airways, and invited guests from departments concerned.

Technical features and flight capacity of the K-8 jet trainer were explained at the demonstration and the jet was shown to the guests. The plane was then jointly flown by pilots from the China Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation and fighter pilots from the Air Force.

Cordial, Frank Talks Noted

BK0403145492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Zhao Minqi, vice president of China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation, called on Lieutenant General Tin Tun, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister for transport and labor, at the minister's office at 1300 today.

At the meeting, cordial and frank talks were held on the demonstration flight of the jointly manufactured PRC-Pakistan K-8 trainer, on air traffic, and aircraft leasing.

Also present were U San Wai, deputy minister of transport; U Tin Ohn, director general of the Civil Aviation Department; and responsible personnel.

Commission Accepts Resignation of NLD MP

BK0403145892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Announcement No. 1,010 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections, dated 4 March 1992]

[Text] Subject: Permission has been granted to U Thaung Ngwe to resign as the elected member of the People's Assembly from Momauk Township constituency, Kachin State

1. U Thaung Ngwe, who represented the National League for Democracy [NLD] in the multiparty democratic general elections in May 1990 and who was elected as a member of the People's Assembly from Momauk Township constituency, Kachin State, has on his own volition asked the commission to allow him to resign because of health reasons.

2. In accordance with Article 11-E of the People's Asssembly Elections Law, the commission has allowed U Thaung Ngwe to resign as member of the People's Assembly for Momauk Township constituency effective today.

By the authority invested in me.

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

21 Insurgents Surrender Between 1-20 Jan

BK0103085092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] People belonging to various terrorist insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering at different Army camps with arms and ammunition. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place between 1-20 January 1992:

Southeastern Military Command: Privates Saw Bosco and Saw Moses from the 1st Company of the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered with one mine at Ganainggyi Garrison. Pvts. Hla Thein and Mahn Nwe of the 10th Battalion gave themselves up at Kawthaung Garrison. Pvts. Win Maung Na and Mya Win from the 205th Battalion of the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] terrorist insurgents organization surrendered at Myawadi Garrison.

Northern Military Command: Pvts. Baw Khaw, Nyan Myint, Myint Oo, and Gongya, from the 3d Battalion of the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgents organization surrendered together with two M-21 automatic rifles and one M-22 Automatic rifle at Kyaikkhamgyi Garrison. Lakhum Garawng, military commander in charge of Monyin region, surrendered at Maran Garrison. Pvts. Aik Lwi, Maung Si, Maung Aik, Maung Sa, and Ohn Kyaing from the 2d Brigade surrendered with five M-21 Automatic rifles, one BA-63 automatic rifle, and one carbine at the Tanaing bridge outpost. Pvts. Soe Yin, Tin Hlaing Win, and Aung Htwe from the 254th Battalion surrendered at Dwaphawle outpost.

Southern Military Command: Pvt. Than Lone from the KNU's 14th Battalion surrendered at Waw Township Law and Order Restoration Council office. Lance Corporal Myint Swe of the 2d Brigade gave himself up at Toungoo Garrison.

Altogether 21 terrorist insurgents surrendered during 1-20 January 1992. These people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Officials Comment on Spratly Islands Dispute

Closed Door Talks With PRC Urged

BK0403144092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Malaysia prefers to discuss the Spratly issue with China behind closed doors in a spirit of friendship. The deputy prime minister, Ghafar Baba, points out that this is a very sensitive issue. Malaysia does not want it to be discussed openly. It does not want to make unnecessary statements that could lead to a misunderstanding with China. Encik [Mr.] Ghafar was asked by reporters to comment on China's recent action in passing a law to claim the Spratly Islands. [passage omitted]

Defense Chief Vows To Defend 'Rights'

OW0303130792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 3 KYODO—Malaysia's top military leader vowed Tuesday to defend parts of the disputed Spratly Islands which the country claims, but expressed hope the row will be settled peacefully, BERNAMA NEWS AGENCY reported.

"We will not hand over the islands... without any opposition, but we will defend our rights over them," said Army Commander Gen. Yaacob Zain, who is to be promoted to chief of Malaysia's Armed Forces next month.

He was commenting on reports China has enacted a law proclaiming its sovereignty over various disputed islands, including the Spratly chain of islets and atolls in the South China Sea also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Brunei.

"Even though we do not have the capability to go to war with China in view of its military strength and equipment, we'll try to defend our rights as far as we are able to," BERNAMA quoted Yaacob as saying.

But Malaysia will hold China to its pledge that the dispute be resolved through negotiations, he said.

Malaysia, which has deployed commandos on one of the Spratly atolls, is developing it into a tourist resort.

Malaysia and Vietnam agreed in January to jointly develop islands where their territorial claims overlap. The continental shelves of these islands are believed to contain rich oil deposits and other minerals.

61 SRV Refugees Return Home Under UN Program

BK0403114192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1055 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (BERNAMA)—Sixty-one Vietnamese refugees left for Hanoi today under the voluntary repatriation programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This raises the total number of boat people who have left voluntarily since the programme was launched in 1989 to 874. All the 874 persons failed the screening test held to determine whether they are political refugees that would entitle them to resettlement in third countries. Malaysia introduced the screening process in August 1989 to weed out non-political refugees.

Under the repatriation programme, each family is given U.S. $410 for the first year by the UNHCR besides training in trade.

There are still more than 12,000 Vietnamese refugees at the Sungai Besi transit camp here.

400 Opposition Members in Kedah Rejoin UMNO

BK0403104192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] Alor Setar, Mon.—More than 400 members of the Padang Terap Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party] Branch have crossed over to UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

The Padang Terap Semangat youth leader, Ahmad Zuhdi Haji Yaakob, led several supporters to Wisma Tunku last night.

The forms were handed over to Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff by the vice chairman of the Padang Terap, Segamat Branch, Uztaz Razali Mat Isa.

Encik [Mr.] Ahmad Zuhdi told a press conference that it was important for the Malays to be united. He said that this could only be achieved through UMNO.

"We quit Semangat because the strength of Malays lay in UMNO," he said.

Tan Sri Haji Osman said he was glad that they had made the decision to rejoin UMNO. He added that their support would strengthen UMNO's position in Padang Terap and in Kedah.

The menteri besar, however, warned that any disunity among the Malays could be disastrous for the race. He said the break-up should be a lesson to them.

National Front Wins Jerai Parliamentary Election

BK0403150492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The National Front retained the Jerai parliamentary seat after its candidate Haji Badaruddin Amiruddin defeated PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] candidate Nasir Haji Othman by a majority of 3,726 votes. The National Front candidate obtained 14,538 votes, while the PAS candidate got 10,812 votes. The voter turnout was 69 percent. The results were announced by Election Commission officer Haji Hassan Taib at the Datuk Mahdi Diyan Hall at about 10 p.m. tonight. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

U.S. Group Continues Quest for MIA Remains

BK0503025692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0149 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phum Kandaol, Cambodia, March 5 (AFP)—In the sweltering heat, a U.S. Army staff sergeant scoops out a mess of clay from a Cambodian field that was once crawling with Viet Cong and Khmer Rouge.

He is looking for bones, the remains of five newsmen from the U.S. television networks CBS and NBC who were captured by hostile forces on May 31, 1970, taken to this spot and executed.

"All the evidence we have points to this place and no place else," said Kurt Volkert, a CBS cameraman now based in Rome who just by chance missed being part of that fated convoy and has been searching for his colleagues' remains ever since.

The excavation, which began Tuesday, is the first attempt by the United States to search for its missing nationals in Cambodia. U.S. Blackhawk helicopters flying to the site were the first back in Indochinese airspace since the Vietnam war ended in 1975.

The newsmen, among whom only Welles Hangen was American, were listed as missing in action (MIA). The others were NBC's French cameraman Roger Colne and Japanese soundman Yoshihiko Waku, and the CBS team of Kojiro Sakai and Tomoharu Ishii.

There are 82 U.S. servicemen and eight civilian MIAs in Cambodia.

The U.S. military is carrying out a second excavation on the island of Koh Tang, off the coast of Cambodia.

Eighteen U.S. Marines perished trying to rescue the crew of a ship, Mayaguez, from the Khmer Rouge in May 1975, the last time U.S. soldiers saw combat in Indochina.

Some bones have been recovered and will be taken back to a forensics laboratory in Hawaii for identification, if at all possible, said Lieutenant Commander Ken Patterson of the U.S. Pacific Command.

Remains handed over by the Cambodian Government earlier this year—thought to be of two marines lost in the Mayaguez incident—tested negative, he said.

One set proved to be skull fragments of a local man and the other remains tested non-human.

So far, the only items recovered from this excavation site are an 82 millimeter mortar round, "smelly mud and lots of fish," said Staff Sergeant Jay Steed from San Diego.

Steed was up to his chest in a hole being dug in a canal bed running through rice paddies 54 kilometers (34 miles) south of Phnom Penh. The nearest landmark is a pagoda where villagers say the men were held before being taken out and shot.

Villagers who were forced to dig the graves remember, and pointed the joint military-CBS-NBC team to the spot.

This joint task force led by Major James Moye believes it is the right place because the canal just about evaporates during the dry season, and while the baked-earth paddy fields turn hard as stone, the soil in the canal bed stays a bit moist.

"If you're going to dig a hole, you'd do it where the ground is softer," he said.

The crews, helped by hired Cambodians from nearby villages, will dig down about six feet and hope the soil has not shifted too much in the past 20 years. Every rainy season, the paddy is like a basin and fills with water.

"After 20 years and so many years under water it's a long shot for us anyway," said NBC video technician Peter Chhun, a naturalized Cambodian-American based in California.

He was working in Cambodia when the crews disappeared, and has been the main drive behind finding the remains.

Previously the Phnom Penh Government had said the area was still in the hands of the Khmer Rouge, and only last year allowed the television crews to investigate.

"Even if nothing is found, I think we need this effort... for their families' sakes," Volkert said.

Ranariddh Appeal at Party Congress Reported

BK0403142192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 92

["Appeal" by "Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], supreme commander and commander-in-chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, and member of the Cambodian Supreme

National Council, to the clergy and Cambodian compatriots at the recent FUNCINPEC congress held in Oddar Meanchey Province;" date not given—recorded]

[Text] Today, with the national reconciliation spirit of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement, I, chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]—the genuine Sihanoukist party—have the great honor to make the following appeal to all our Cambodian compatriots, male and female, without discrimination against the political tendencies with which they are involved. I would like to address the Cambodian soul residing deep in every Cambodian's heart and national conscience.

First of all, I would like to address Cambodian women in our country who are the symbol and model of courage. You have made efforts to most valiantly struggle every day in a tragic and painful situation to defend what you and Cambodians cherish the most. You have suffered and witnessed serious consequences such as worries about sickness, old age, loss of family members, daily toil, and everyday fear. Despite all this, you still stand firm and high and have energy to valiantly struggle for the survival of your children and that of our entire people.

Cambodian women, more than at any other time, want to regain peace, rights, and freedom because they do not want to see husbands terrorized and children and families worried. What Cambodian women want, and what I also want, is joy and happiness in our harmonious families. In the future, we still need you more than in the past because you are the ones who organize and plan daily life and bring about development of our country. I would like to contribute to the struggle with you by providing your children with enough food and medical care from the Health Ministry free of charge. They will be provided with education, development, and jobs to start families of their own.

It is because of your efforts in such harsh and difficult circumstances that I would like to say to you that I admire and praise you, and consider the role of our Cambodian women the most important in our FUNCINPEC. [applause]

As for our elders, compatriots who knew peace before the country was embroiled in war, and those compatriots who have survived after waging an arduous struggle with goodwill, I would like to stress that these compatriots represent our cultural values. It is the transfer of knowledge, sources of experience, and wise counsel that will light the way for us and teach us to look at the future with expert knowledge. Elders with knowledge and wide experience, please teach us what you know, such as traditional Cambodian medical science, history, legends, traditions, customs, and our Cambodian civilization, which will bring satisfactory rewards and help our youths have endurance and patience. We want Cambodians to once more know life with justice and peace. I am happy with the thought that the glorious period will be back in our Cambodia and that all our children would know glory and prosperity. I would like our elders to have a comfortable and decent life with property and cherish unity among friends and families.

Now I would like to address all combatants. Although sometimes you have fought for the cause that opposes our goal, I would like to say that I clearly understand what you did. I also clearly understand that at that time you thought you were serving a just cause. For this reason, I acknowledge and respect your struggle activities. However, it is a sacred fact that my sentiments are with our compatriot combatants, particularly toward those in the ranks of the Sihanoukist Army, the National Army of Independent Cambodia, who has made all kinds of sacrifices in the cause to liberate our sacred and beloved motherland. [applause]

Due to the resolute sacrifices of compatriot combatants and all our resistance fighters, our Cambodia has now regained peace and, in the end, will have a way of life the way it used to be. The struggle you have waged for many years has not been in vain. It has achieved concrete significance and value. Through my participation with all combatants to lead the armed struggle of the Sihanoukist Army—later on the National Army of Independent Cambodia—I know the value of the task and determination of all compatriots. From now on, this deed will be recorded in the golden records of our Cambodia. [applause] Our future generations will continue to respect, acknowledge, and be most profoundly grateful for the sacrifice of all these compatriots for our Cambodia's freedom.

I am greatly concerned about compatriots, military and civilian, who are disabled because of the war. I would like to share their pain and will strive to find measures to ensure that these compatriots have a decent life in our new society and nation. During the national reconciliation phase, some compatriot combatants will be entrusted with the same duties of ensuring peace and defending the territorial integrity of our Cambodia. [applause] A number of compatriot combatants, who will be demobilized, will be called upon by our movement to struggle in the political arena to again provide peace and independence to our beloved motherland. [applause] I believe that due to the fact that these compatriots used to be combatants, with valiant exploits in fighting on the battlefield, they will achieve the same results in the struggle to again reach our goal—namely, leading our FUNCINPEC to election victory in 1993. [applause]

Now I would like to address our Cambodian peasants. Cambodia is a great agricultural country. Agriculture is the most vigorous sector. It is the work of our compatriot peasants that enables our Cambodia to be amply self-sufficient. These compatriots will reap appropriate benefits from our FUNCINPEC. It is due to these compatriots that our entire Cambodian people have enough food and live independently.

I would like to inform you that FUNCINPEC's policy on agriculture is one among major issues we should tackle and solve immediately. [applause] In accordance with the Paris agreement, mine-clearing has been gradually implemented. This will be further intensified in order to widen to the maximum arable land for compatriots to work on. Our party will be taking measures to provide good seeds and fertilizers in order to improve the quality of land with the aim of increasing agricultural production to the maximum. We should find measures to buy modern agricultural equipment to assist our respected compatriot peasants.

Concerning animal husbandry, we will strive to provide guidance on various methods to increase the quality and production to the maximum, not only to meet local needs but also to produce surpluses for export, as we did during the Sangkum Reas Niyum [name of Sihanouk's former political party] era. [applause] Our Cambodia will again become a paddy-rich country in Southeast Asia. The entire Cambodian people will enjoy prosperity, joy, glory, and happiness because of the active work of compatriot peasants. [applause]

Concerning compatriot Muslims, Khmer Kraom [ethnic Cambodians from southern Vietnam], Sino-Cambodians, and Khmer Loeu [ethnic Cambodians in the hilly northeastern part of Cambodia], and so on, I would like to specify that, first of all, you are genuine Cambodians. Your diversity is our Cambodia's cultural heritage. You will always be our nation's force and a major part of our Cambodian nation. I would like to guarantee the freedom of belief and stress the respect and recognition of your traditions and customs. I would like to state our absolute opposition to all forms of racial discrimination, meaning that I uphold your rights and freedom the same way I do for all other Cambodian citizens. [applause] Cambodia is a country with a small population. The nation needs the energy and goodwill efforts of all compatriots. Each community can take part, according to its own capability, in the immense mission of reorganizing and rebuilding our country. I would like to address artisans, businessmen, enterprises, workers and those looking for jobs. I would like to inform these compatriots that Cambodia's reconstruction needs all of you. You can set up businesses and thrive only if Cambodia has a new and modern socioeconomic policy based on free enterprise, which respects free market laws. [applause]

Because our country has to be fully reorganized, investment is necessary and requires the most modern equipment with up-to-date techniques. In this investment we should never put personal advantage before our national interests and the national economy. We should organize extensive educational programs, which need the great cooperation of compatriot teachers and educators who have an important duty. Failing this, we cannot achieve success in our immense mission and catch up with the time we have lost in the past.

In this sense, we absolutely need the assistance of our compatriots, countries friendly to Cambodia, and friendly leaders who have long supported us in our struggle. They will provide us with techniques and knowledge and give us further training. Governments and businessmen the world over have been constantly in touch with us concerning our country's reconstruction. ASEAN countries, Japan, the United States, European countries, Australia, and many other countries have successively contacted us and discussed, exchanged views, and proposed aid to us to rebuild our Cambodia. For this reason I would like our party to organize an economic structure allowing maximum participation of specialists in order to facilitate dealings between our party and these donor countries.

I, Norodom Ranariddh, would like to address compatriot civil servants and officials holding positions in the civilian administration of Cambodia. I would like to inform you that I clearly understand what you do under pressure to serve a policy in which you sometimes believe, and how you sometimes do so reluctantly and in full opposition to your own views. I ask you not to make decisions without reason, for this will result in great disaster for Cambodia, which needs to be rebuilt. I propose that you provide ideas and constructive criticism that is transparently sincere. Serving the nation is a most noble cause that requires determination and all kinds of sacrifices with a lofty spirit and conscience.

Our Cambodia still needs a lot of things. Compatriots who are fully competent, in the future if you agree that Cambodia needs a lot of things, we are ready to cooperate with you to rebuild and develop Cambodia. This is an immense task and a most urgent one. On this issue we await and welcome your contributions. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact me. [applause] On this matter, we still have a chance and it is not yet too late to be reconciled in the name of the people and the future of our entire Cambodia." [applause]

What you must now do is something within your sovereignty and fully in accordance with your hearts and consciences; be ready with a clear and realistic idea for the future of our sacred country. [applause]

I would like to make this appeal to all Cambodian compatriots living abroad. It is a very rare chance that our country still has all of you, a source of important energy. I do know that our Cambodian compatriots living in various countries the world over, although they have received cultural influences from the countries in which the live, these compatriots have made efforts to preserve and to constantly stick to the values of our Cambodian culture and civilization [applause]. Because these compatriots have friends and close and fine relations with foreigners, you also have a useful role to play in achieving our country's reconstruction. Education, knowledge, and all kinds of assistance from you is very important in getting back what our country has most unfortunately lost in the past. I ask you to be ready to answer our various proposals. [applause]

To this day, if you have not yet done anything you can still show to us in writing your capabilities and the professional qualities you can use to serve our nation and motherland. We will provide facilities, make arrangements, and welcome you who volunteer to carry out the task to serve our nation and motherland. For those who are permanently settled abroad, due to circumstances, we will strive to provide them with information on the evolution and activities we are undertaking to rebuild our country. We hope that you will help us disseminate this information worldwide. [applause]

In the future, when our contacts and staff travel to where you live, they can get in touch with you and receive effective assistance in contacting foreigners involved in our country's reconstruction. In doing this, you will be indirectly taking part in helping rebuild our sacred Cambodia, which in the future will become a country opening its doors to the world and those countries that will become close friends of our Cambodia. [applause]

I would like to greet the clergy with the highest and most profound respect. I would again like to see with you peace, security, and serenity—for example, early morning scenes when the sun casts its rays of light on monasteries resounding with the prayers you chant. I would again like to see with you our monks and novices making their rounds in their yellow monastic garb in villages throughout our free Cambodia. [applause] I would again like to see and hear with you pupils laughing and playing on the grounds in your monastery's compound. I would like to see again with you the participation of people in various Buddhist ceremonies and festivities in monasteries, sacred places of Cambodians. I would again like to see with you and take part with all Buddhist followers in marking various occasions to convey merit to relatives, friends, ancestors, and merited persons who have passed away, in accordance with our Cambodian traditions and customs. I would like to see again with you the activities of the monasteries—places revered by the Cambodian people and where they gather—in a new Cambodian society and nation. [applause]

I would like to pray with you and call on the world's sacred things, the triple jewels, to bless our Cambodian people with security, prosperity, and happiness forever. [applause]

Finally, I would like to address our youths nationwide. Youths are combatants, peasants, and students. All of you are a living force. You are the main pillar sustaining the nation. You are a special and most important asset of our country. [applause] You are the ones who can again gradually move Cambodia forward toward progress. It is you who are the most eager to take part in the process of developing our country. You are the ones who will usher our Cambodia into a new century, a glorious one, the 21st century of our new Cambodia. [applause]

First of all, I would like to ask that you constantly stick to our Cambodian culture and customs, which is a means to reconcile and unite our Cambodian nation. You dare to take responsibility over Cambodia's future. This is an immense and heavy burden which youths in other countries are rarely able to accomplish. [applause] I clearly understand your sentiments and the value of your good conduct. I do understand your resolute will of wanting to transform Cambodian society into one having freedom, justice, humanism, and social efficiency. I clearly understand your concerns. I clearly understand this issue. I have dealt with youths worldwide over many years, particularly French youths and those from other countries; I used to be a teacher of law students in France. I do know about this because the majority of my colleagues in the FUNCINPEC office are nationalist youths. [applause]

In the future, I would be very happy to have a direct dialogue with you so that I can listen and exchange views with you. I would like to make proposals and make various decisions with you on issues concerning the future of our Cambodia, your Cambodia. [applause] I would also pledge again [changes thought]—it is true that we must continue to be courageous and patient. It is true that the path we must travel is still long and full of difficulties and all kinds of obstacles. However, I would again like to remind all Cambodian compatriots about the basic and incomparable value of our beloved motherland. [applause]

We are a people who have unity and love one another. We should unite and follow the prince father, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of independence, father of national reconciliation, and father of national reconstruction, to rebuild our Cambodia. [applause] We are a people who respect the value of collectivity and are a firm and dignified race. We are a people who are happy and kind by nature. We should strive in the reconstruction of Cambodia with good hearts and noble consciences. We are a people full of patience and endurance. All our activities will be recorded in the golden pages of our Cambodian history for a long time to come. We are a people who are intelligent and clever and are quick to understand and learn. Therefore, we should draw from experiences. We are the most honest people. We will work together based on mutual trust. [applause] We are a courageous and volunteering people. We should cooperate in scoring a miraculous success in rebuilding Cambodia. [applause]

Chea Sim Receives Australian Ambassador

BK0503023692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 3 March, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s National Assembly, received H.E. John Scott Holloway, Australian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cambodia.

During the meeting, H.E. Chea Sim highly valued the ties of fraternal friendship between Cambodia and Australia and expressed satisfaction over the Australian Government's efforts to bring about the Cambodian peace agreement, adding that this agreement had been implemented well in Cambodia although there were some violations by the Khmer Rouge.

H.E. Chea Sim stressed that the CPP and the SOC Government had firmly adhered to the democractic policy and pursued an open market economic system in line with the people's aspirations [words indistinct].

H.E. Holloway expressed his delight over the splendid changes in Cambodia in the past 13 years. He also invited H.E. Chea Sim to pay a two-week visit to Australia to further strengthen the relations between the two countries.

H.E. Chea Sim accepted the invitation and said he would pay the visit either at the end of April or the beginning of May.

ICRC Asia-Pacific Representative Pays Visit

Meets Chea Sim; Views Peace Accord

BK0503034092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s National Assembly, met on 3 March with a visiting delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] led by Jean Michel Monod, ICRC's Asia-Pacific representative.

On that occasion, H.E. Chea Sim said that the SOC's side had faithfully implemented the Paris peace agreement, but the Khmer Rouge side carried out military activities in violation of the agreement in Kompong Thom, Takeo, and (?Kompong Chhnang) Provinces.

H.E. Chea Sim added that the SOC had closely cooperated with the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia to boost implementation of the peace agreement and speed up deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

Concerning repatriation of the Cambodian refugees from camps along the Thai border, H.E. Chea Sim stressed that the SOC had made preparations for this process which should be completed before the rainy season.

The ICRC representative called on all Cambodian factions to create favorable conditions for the ICRC to carry out its work everywhere in Cambodia. He also spoke on the difficulties arising from the fact that the Khmer Rouge had refused to let the ICRC (?help) the sufferers.

Pays Courtesy Call to Hun Sen

BK0503072492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0423 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 5—Jean Michel Monod, head of the delegation of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in charge of the Asia-Pacific Affairs, paid here Wednesday a courtesy visit to Premier Hun Sen.

Monod who arrived here Sunday expressed his joy at the implementation of the Paris peace treaty by the Government of the State of Cambodia. Due to close cooperation from the Cambodian side, the ICRC has achieved fine result in the implementation of human rights in the country, especially the release of political and war prisoners.

He said ICRC would continue its cooperation with Cambodia in accordance with all the provisions stipulated in Paris peace accords and help assist Cambodian victims in the war ravaged country.

In reply, Premier Hun Sen called on the other Khmer sides to scrupulously implement the Paris peace agreement and demanded the ICRC to make more contribution to speeding up the peace process in Cambodia.

Monod and his party also had talks with other Cambodia officials during his four-day visit to Cambodia which concluded Wednesday.

Indonesia

Sutrisno Threatens To Deport Portuguese Activists

BK0403154692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Indonesian Armed Forces commander, General Try Sutrisno, says that Portuguese political activists traveling aboard the Lusitania Expresso ship will be deported if they force their way into Indonesian waters.

Speaking to newsmen before attending a limited cabinet meeting on economy, finance, and industry at Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta today, General Try Sutrisno said the so-called peace mission by the Portuguese is political provocation because it is impossible that they were making this long voyage just to throw flowers into the waters around Dili.

The ban on the Portuguese ship's entry is not due to the absence of a permit but their plan to throw flowers that are not in accordance with good ethical and moral values. However, it is basically an act of finding fault with Indonesia.

U.S., Europe Urge 'Direct' Talks

BK0403023492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says all U.S. and European officials have expressed their hope that Indonesia and Portugal will soon resume direct talks under

UN auspices. In his recent U.S. and European tours, Alatas noted that nobody had offered to mediate the dispute between the two countries, but everyone hoped that the two countries would resume talks under UN auspices.

Speaking to reporters yesterday at Jakarta's Cengkareng Airport where he was awaiting the arrival of Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, Alatas said that even though he welcomed the suggestion to hold talks with Portugal, that country had not presented its formal proposals to the United Nations. The UN secretary general had promised to study such proposals and discuss them with both countries. After holding talks with the two countries, the UN secretary general will give his views on how to solve the East Timor issue.

Alatas on Trade, Economic Ties With Thailand

Happy With Trade Relationship

BK0403111592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1002 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 04 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas expressed hope that the technical difficulties of Thailand's projected purchase of a number of airplanes produced by the National Aircraft Industry PT IPTN would soon be resolved.

"It would be an event that the world of aviation should find noteworthy when an ASEAN country would be able to supply another ASEAN country with aircraft of its own manufacture," said Alatas, who headed the Indonesian delegation on the first joint commission meeting between Indonesia and Thailand here on Wednesday.

Alatas further said despite the increase in the trade volume between the two countries over the past nine months of last year there was still a vast potential for the expansion of mutually beneficial trade relationship which would be realized sooner if the two countries could arrive at a new air transport agreement.

The trade volume between the two countries reached 447.6 million U.S. dollars over the period, which was already 16.9 per cent higher than the trade volume the whole of 1990, with Indonesian exports to Thailand totalling 227.2 million U.S. dollars and Thailand's exports to Indonesia reaching 220.4 million U.S. dollars.

"We are pleased with the increase and even happier to note that the trade relationship is almost balanced," he said.

On the occasion Alatas also expressed the hope that the two countries would soon arrive at the air agreement because air transport was an essential element to the growth of trade.

He also expressed the hope that the two countries would soon arrive at an agreement on avoidance of double taxation as this would be a most encouraging development for private sectors.

He said Thailand's private business sector had invested in Indonesia, while on the other hand Indonesian businessmen had also invested some projects in Thailand.

Commission Facilitates Cooperation

BK0503031892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas hopes that Indonesia and Thailand will soon reach an agreement of the avoidance of double taxation because such an agreement will boost investment in both countries. Speaking at a meeting of the Indonesia-Thailand Joint Commission in Jakarta yesterday, Alatas said the agreement will also give substance to, and enhance and facilitate economic growth of the two countries. Alatas said the establishment of the joint commission is aimed at facilitating consultations and cooperation in many areas, especially trade.

Alatas noted that bilateral trade volume in the first nine months of 1991 was registered at $447.6 million. Indonesia's exports to Thailand stood at $227.2 million while its imports from that country stood at $220.4 million.

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Burmese Foreign Minister

BK0403092992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday morning, Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Vientiane. U Ohn Gyaw is currently on a visit to Laos to attend a meeting of the Lao and Myanmar narcotics control and suppression committees, which was held in Vientiane on 2 March.

On this occasion, the deputy prime minister welcomed U Ohn Gyaw's participation in the meeting, a meeting which, he said, marked a milestone of cooperation between Laos and Myanmar in controlling and suppressing narcotics. He also discussed with the Myanmar foreign affairs minister means to increasingly develop cooperation in the economic field, both on an immediate and a long-term basis, for the benefits of the peoples of the two countries.

SRV Gives Rice as Gift to Savannakhet People

BK0503034492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] According to a report from Savannakhet Province, in late February Nguyen Xuan, ambassador

extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to Laos, acting on behalf of the SRV Government, gave 1,000 metric tons of polished rice to the Lao Government to be distributed among those people affected by floods and drought in Savannakhet Province in July and August 1991. Akhom Tounalom, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry accepted the first consignmnet of 100 metric tons of the rice aid on behalf of the Lao Government. The rest of the rice—900 metric tons—will be delivered to the province by trucks from Vietnam until the end of this month.

Lecture Teams To Publicize Lao-Thai Relations

BK0503032092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday morning, a meeting was held in Vientiane Province to distribute documents on the latest development in the Lao-Thai relations and the success of the recent visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by President Kaysone Phomvihan.

Attending the meeting were 75 cadres from various services in the province and members of the party and administrative committees from nine districts in the province. The documents pointed out a new step of development in the relations and cooperation between Laos and Thailand and the designs of the enemies in the new period, aimed at sabotaging and undermining the brotherly relations between the two countries. The documents cautioned: We must consistently maintain a sense of vigilance toward these designs.

After the meeting, the province set up 19 lecture teams assigned to visit many services and localities to thoroughly propagate the contents of the documents among all cadres and people.

Interior Minister Discusses 'Changing Situation'

BK0503030892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] In his lecture given in the presence of more than 100 public security cadres and combatants from various units around Luang Namtha Province, Interior Minister Major General Asang Laoli pointed out recent developments in the international situation which is changing in a complex manner. He specifically discussed the changing situation in our country and our party's foreign policy toward the countries sharing common borders with Laos, contributing to the development of all-around cooperation with the PRC.

At the end of his speech, Asang Laoli called on all cadres, combatants, and residents of Luang Namtha Province to further strengthen unity and to develop their own localities to bring about political stability and social order to the northern provinces.

It was reported that in late February, a delegation of the economy, planning, and finance service of Luang Namtha Province paid a friendship visit to the (Zi Mao) region in Yunnan Province of the PRC. During the four-day visit, the two sides discussed economic cooperation and signed a memorandum to this effect. They also discussed activities in tourism business, communications and transport work, agriculture, and the application of technology in crop cultivation. The (Zi Mao) side plans to set up a trading firm in Luang Namtha Province to supply Laos with construction materials, machinery for agricultural production, daily necessities, and other goods and to purchase such Lao products from the province as plywood, forest products, and herbal plants. The delegation of Luang Namtha Province also visited some economic establishments in the region, such as a cement factory, a glass factory, a farm tools factory, and a herbal medicine production plant.

Fighting Between Government Troops, Rebels Noted

BK0403073992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Loei—Fierce fighting broke out on Monday afternoon between Laotian Government troops and Lao rebels at Ban Tak Houai Sao in Muang Sanakham of Vientiane, opposite Thailand's Tambon Bu Houai, military sources reported.

The report claimed that two Laotian soldiers and two villagers were killed, while six soldiers and three civilians were wounded.

Some 23 houses were completely burned down. Fifty-four Lao villagers crossed the border into Thailand to seek refuge at Wat Si Sa-at of Ban Houai in Chiang Khan District.

The villagers said they could not stand the fighting and decided to flee to Thailand.

Philippines

Government, Westinghouse Settle Power Plant Case

HK0503105492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The Philippine Government, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and Burns & Roe have come to an agreement on the case filed by the Philippines on the construction of the controversial Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP]. Here is Tani Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] The agreement is composed of three [as heard] parts: the payment of $100 million in cash and in cash equivalents to the Philippines, the reconstruction and repair of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant according to present nuclear safety standards, the operation of the BNPP by Westinghouse for thirty years, and the sale of energy produced by the power plant to the National Power Corporation at a price which will save the government several millions of dollars when compared to other alternative sources of energy.

According to Senator Rene Saguisag, a member of the Presidential Committee on the BNPP, this agreement must first be approved by both the Philippine Congress and the Westinghouse board of directors.

This agreement would suspend the charges filed by the Philippines against Westinghouse which is now pending in the United States District Court of Newark, New Jersey. [end recording]

Critics Assail Agreement

HK0503120292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 5 March 92

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, March 5 (AFP)—Critics lambasted here Thursday a 100 million-dollar settlement between the Philippines and two U.S. firms accused of bribing deposed president Ferdinand Marcos to get a nuclear-plant contract.

The out-of-court settlement suspended Manila's suit before a U.S. federal court in New Jersey against contractor Westinghouse Electric Corp. and designer Burns and Roe, clearing the way for a start-up by 1995.

Completed in 1985, the 2.3 billion-dollar plant, declared unsafe by independent experts, was never operated by Marcos, who was overthrown by a popular revolt in 1986.

The plant, located in a volcanic and earthquake-prone region in Bataan Province west of here, remains the country's only nuclear facility.

President Corazon Aquino initiated the suit after taking over from Marcos, alleging that her predecessor, who died in 1989, received a 17 million-dollar bribe from the firms to get the contract to build the plant.

Corazon Fabros, secretary-general of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, an activist group opposing the plant's opening, said the 100 million dollars "appears to be bribe money so that we would settle."

"We had a big chance of winning in the case," she said.

A government statement said the deal calls for payment of 100 million dollars in cash and "equivalents" to Manila, with Westinghouse refurbishing and upgrading the plant to "current U.S. safety standards."

When the work is completed, the plant "will be as safe as any nuclear plant in the world," it added.

The settlement also suspends the Philippines' complaint against Westinghouse now under arbitration by the International Chamber of Commerce in Geneva.

The plant would supply power to the country's main island Luzon, including Manila, which has suffered chronic power shortages.

The settlement marked a reversal of Aquino's pledge to keep the allegedly faulty plant mothballed, but is subject to approval by the next Philippine Congress, to be elected in May along with a new president.

Moreover, the 620-megawatt plant would not be ready to produce electricity until after a three-year, 400 million-dollar renovation by Westinghouse, which would operate the facility for 30 years to recover costs.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra, one of the major presidential candidates in the elections, said he would not operate the plant if elected because it "can never get a license operating in the United States."

"We denounce this cheap deal to capitulate to the foreign interests on this matter," said Nathaniel Santiago, deputy secretary-general of the left-wing opposition alliance Bayan.

The deal has introduced a fresh political issue in the already heated election campaign. Santiago called on other candidates to make their stand known. Vice President Salvador Laurel, another presidential candidate, has backed operating the plant.

Senator Rene Saguisag, one of the key Philippine lawyers in the suit, said the matter could ultimately be decided by referendum.

He said the renovation agreement with Westinghouse was "a validation of our fears and theories that in fact a lot of money and a long time would be needed" to bring the plant to safe standards.

Manila stands to save "hundreds of millions of dollars" from the cheap power rates promised by Westinghouse, he added.

Even Marcos balked at opening the plant because of doubts over its safety. A special commission he created found hundreds of faulty features and recommended that it not be operated until all defects were removed.

Fabros said the plant's "basic structure" was defective, and the problems of waste disposal and containment remain unsolved.

"Even if they put all the safety measures, we don't think they will really be able to upgrade according to current safety standards," she said.

"We are not responding to this issue on the basis of money, but on the basis of the safety of the nuclear power plant," she added.

Military To Abide by Some Demands of Kidnappers

HK0403133492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The military is still prepared to abide by some of the demands set by the New People's Army [NPA] in exchange for the release of their American hostage, Duane Drown. This was stressed by Brigadier General

Emiliano Templo, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Civil Military Operations chief.

However, Templo said that the AFP will not be able to abide by the NPA's demand for the total withdrawal of government troops from the Cordillera region.

AFP Chief Believes NPA Kidnapped Barnes

HK0503072492 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, believes the New People's Army [NPA] kidnapped Michael Barnes. Henry Umaga Diaz of Radyo Patrol 14 reports:

[Begin recording] [Diaz] The NPA is disclaiming involvement with the Barnes kidnapping, although it was an operation mounted by the Alex Boncayao Brigade. This was declared by Gen Abadia during an interview with Radyo Patrol, in connection with reports that Barnes' kidnappers are a breakaway NPA group headed by Alfredo Joey de Leon. This group is protected by some military officials, including an AFP colonel and major. Gen Abadia says this is the NPA's standard procedure, in which they disclaim or hide the fact that some of their elements engage in activities like kidnapping.

[Abadia] As you know, like the Moro National Liberation Front, the NPA engages in such gimmicks if it's one of their men. And this isn't just one of their men, but previously a member of the Lost Command. That's one of their own people. [end recording]

China To Help Build Power Plant in Batangas

HK0403132392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Passages in italics in English]

[Text] Chinese businessmen have assured the government that China will cooperate with the Philippines in setting up a power plant in the country. Here is Tanny Rodriguez for the details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] This *coal-fired power plant* project, according to Tong Chang Yin, president of the China National Technical Import-Export, will cost around $200 million and is under the country's *build, operate, and transfer program.*

Tong Chang Yin said that the power plant will be built in the province of Batangas, and will generate up to 300 megawatts of power. This project is part of the government's energy development plan for the coming years.

Aside from this, the Chinese businessmen also told the president of their country's other plans in helping the Philippines develop its power-generating industry.

Review of Trade Protocol With PRC Needed

HK0503032192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Mar 92 p B-1

[By Ellen S. Marcelo]

[Text] Acting Trade and Industry Secretary Lilia R. Bautista has raised the need to review the trade protocol with the People's Republic of China [PROC] because of the unfavorable trade terms in the past two years.

Bautista disclosed that Philippine trade officials will meet with the PROC panel next month to thresh out issues aimed at balancing the trade between the two countries.

For the past two years, Bautista cited that trade between the Philippines and PROC heavily favored the latter.

The Philippines imported $100.34 million more than the exports to China in 1990. The trade deficit amounted to $79.84 million in January to November last year.

Based on the 1990 trade protocol, the two countries agreed to achieve a trade volume of $400 to $450 million but actual transactions only amounted to $223.86 million. This slightly improved to $318.86 million in the first 11 months of 1991.

Bautista lamented that while the Chinese government committed to assist the Philippines in promoting its exports to PROC, some products shipped in by the Philippine International Trading Corp. encountered problems.

The trade protocol contains the indicative list of products that the two parties agreed to buy from each other based on their regular joint review.

PROC, under the 1990 trade pact, agreed to source locally some 200,000 to 400,000 tons of phosphatic and compound fertilizer; 25,000 to 60,000 tons of coconut oil; 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons of fresh bananas; 60,000 to 80,000 metric tons of copper concentrates; 6,000 to 12,000 metric tons of copper cathodes; and 50,000 to 90,000 metric tons of chrome ore.

The same list also covered Philippine products such as plywood, cashew nuts, refined glycerine, wire rods, polyester fiber, coffee and coffee beans, raw sugar, cold-rolled steel coil, picture tubes, copper wire bars, rods and slabs, among others.

On the other hand, the Philippines committed to buy from PROC crude oil, machinery and equipment, electrical products, coal, textiles, steel billets, minerals and mineral products, chemicals, cement, foodstuffs such as rice and corn, cotton, soybean meal, etc.

Bautista pointed out that PROC has no grounds to complain about the economic agreement with the Philippines, especially on areas related to trade.

She added that the Philippines similarly maintained its one-China policy which does not contradict trade and investment agreements with Taiwan.

Meanwhile, improved trade and investment relations can be expected with the signing of an investment guarantee agreement between the Philippines and Taiwan, according to Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Jose T. Pardo.

IMF Approves Economic Stabilization Program

HK0503085692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Manila, March 5 (AFP)—The Philippines has obtained formal approval for its new economic stabilization program from the executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), top economic officials said Thursday.

However this approval can still be cancelled if Manila fails to keep within budget deficit targets set by the IMF for the duration of the program which ends in December, Central Bank (CB) Governor Jose Cuisia said.

The approval, which has been widely expected since January, will pave the way for the release of the remaining 80 million dollars out of a 400 million-dollar package of IMF credits held since 1990.

It will also be a signal to other foreign creditors to extend new loans or debt reduction agreements to this country, Cuisia and other officials said.

The Philippines will get another four billion dollars in new credits and interest savings from foreign sources and will be able to buy back about one billion dollars of its foreign commercial loans at a 50 percent discount.

The IMF approval came despite the Philippine Congress' failure to pass key revenue measures which the Fund was initially insisting upon as part of its deficit-control measures.

Cuisia said the Fund was calling for a stronger fiscal program to boost revenues, adding that if the deficit did not remain within the IMF-set ceiling of nine billion pesos (345 million dollars), "then we have a problem again."

However, he warned that the IMF did not want Manila to control its budget by slashing its capital outlays further because this might affect foreign-funded infrastructure projects.

A special review team from the Fund is due to arrive in the country in April to ensure that Manila stays within the IMF-set targets, Cuisia said. Such a team will review the country's performance at the end of every quarter.

The Philippines' gross national product declined by 0.05 percent in 1991 but is expected to bounce back to three percent growth this year, largely due to massive private spending for the May national elections.

Labor Group Declares Support for Mitra-Fernan

HK2902035292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines [TUCP] has formally declared its support for the candidacies of House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan of the Struggle of Filipino Democrats. The group confirmed it has a total of 1.5 million members nationwide. It said it will also support the candidacies of Senator Ernesto Herrera, former Labor Minister Blas Ople, and former Labor Secretary Ruben Torres, who are running for senatorial positions.

TUCP President Democrito Mendoza said his group chose the Mitra-Fernan tandem for the presidential and vice presidential slots because their goals respond to the needs, protection, and benefits of the Filipino workers.

Investigation of Cavite Mayor's Murder Continues

HK0503072392 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The killers of Octavio Velasco, the mayor of Ternate, Cavite, and his bodyguards will be charged with mutiple murder. The deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] has been authorized by the Department of Justice to conduct a probe of the murder. Vicky Robles of Radyo Patrol 15 reports:

[Begin recording] The Department of Justice has authorized NBI Deputy Director Epimaco Velasco to conduct an investigation of the murder of Ternate, Cavite Mayor Octavio Velasco. DZMM was told this today by Justice Secretary Eduardo Montenegro, who said that his department is following developments in the case closely and expects the arrest of the suspects shortly. He refused to divulge further details, saying they would first like to arrest the right suspects. [end recording]

Cavite Governor Johnny Remulla said the killing of Mayor Velasco will not generate more violence in the province. In an interview with DZMM, Remulla said there is a big possibility that the motive for the killing was personal, not political. He urged people not to worry that this would breed more violence, and expressed the hope that the case would be solved quickly.

Meanwhile Interior and Local Government Secretary Cesar Sarino said the situation in Cavite is under control. He said they know where the suspects are holed up and that his department is collecting all the evidence. He added that the suspects are former soidiers.

In this connection, the Commission on Elections [Comelec] is considering what steps to take in Cavite Province after the brutal slaying of Ternate Mayor Octavio Velasco. In an interview with DZMM this morning, Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod said they are still studying whether this is an isolated case. He added that they will base their decision on intelligence reports which they receive. He said Ternate, Cavite has long been a hot

spot, and that election registrars are wary of being based in Ternate because of the tense situation in that town.

Ramos Denies Use of Martial Law Plan if Elected

HK0403035392 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Mar 92 p 2

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Fidel V. Ramos vowed yesterday not to impose martial law if he is elected.

In a statement he issued with his running mate, Lito Osmena, Ramos said: "Despite its shortcomings, there is no substitute for democracy and freedom which we regained from the dictatorship in 1986 and defended successfully against those who attempted to destroy it in the past six years."

Rafael Alunan, Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christran Democrats] spokesman, said Ramos issued the statement to allay fears of those who believe allegations of other candidates that a Ramos presidency would lead to martial law because of his military background.

Ramos was chief of the Philippine Constabulary when martial law was imposed by President Marcos in 1972. He became AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff and later, defense undersecretary under the Aquino administration.

Ramos has said the imposition of martial law in 1972 was a decision of the civilian government, not of the military.

He also said the imposition of martial law was justified considering the prevailing situation then but it was later abused.

Statement By Captured Troopers Said Propaganda

HK0403141192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The military is asking the help of the Commission on Human Rights to help them in appealing to the New People's Army [NPA] to release the five military troopers that they have captured in the past Surigao del Sur ambush.

Brigadier General Emiliano Templo, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Civil and Military Operations chief of staff, visited [as heard] in order to express his concern over the National Democratic Front's [NDF] statement that is being circulated in Northern Mindanao indicating that the five captured military troopers have denied any cruelty occurred during the ambush.

According to Templo, it is quite clear to anyone that because the soldiers were still under the custody of the NPA, the rebels were free to dictate to their captives what to say, and they might have even coerced them into saying things which were against their will.

Templo's statement was in reaction to the testimony made by the five captive soldiers that came out in the NDF's newspaper, which is now being circulated in Mindanao as propaganda material. Here is the statement made by Brigadier General Emiliano Templo:

[Begin Templo recording in English] Five of them allegedly made a statement to the effect that they were treated humanely and that the NPA did not commit any violation of human rights.

I think it's just but natural for these people to say that now because they are ....[Templo changes thought] They would like to be exempted from maltreatment. Plus the fact that they are still in the custody of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, they would say anything.

We are demanding that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA-NDF should immediately release these people because they are keeping them as hostages and that is a violation of ....[end recording]

Thailand

Government Calls for Review of Treaty With U.S.

BK0503015392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Mar 92 p B1

[Text] Thailand has called for an urgent review of the bilateral economic cooperation treaty which offers better treatment to Americans than other nationals after the two sides failed to compromise on Thai protection of US intellectual property rights yesterday.

US trade officials were apparently not convinced that American copyrights and pharmaceutical patents would gain better protection through tougher law enforcement and the amended patent act that was approved by the National Legislative Assembly last Thursday.

The Thai delegation, led by Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena of the Commerce Ministry, was equally displeased with Washington's stance on the use of its concessional tariff scheme and domestic laws to pressure Thailand.

Phatchara reportedly told his counterpart that it was beyond the country's capability to meet every American demand. The revisions passed under the Anan administration to provide better intellectual property protection added up to the country's bottom line. He maintained.

In a bid to fight back, Thai officials have threatened to join forces with other countries in lodging a complaint with the world trade watchdog, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), if Washington continued to block imports of canned yellowfin tuna from processing countries—Thailand included—on the ground that the fish were caught via methods that harm dolphins.

The Thai side also expressed its desire to review the 1966 Thai- US Treaty of Amity and Economic Cooperation,

which guarantees Americans the same treatment as Thai citizens, but the suggestion was rejected by the US.

The national treatment provision in the treaty has created a big headache for Thai officials negotiating at the GATT talks since Thailand, as a member of the organization, is not supposed to be biased towards any GATT signatory.

Moreover, Thailand wanted to waive the treatment of nationals in regard to investment in major service sectors including aviation, communications, banking, insurance and transport.

Little progress was reported after the intense three-hour meeting yesterday despite attempts by both side to settle their major differences "out of the Round".

Sandra Kristoff, deputy assistant to the US Trade Representative (USTR) on Asia-Pacific economic affairs and leader of the US delegation, requested a one-to-one meeting with Phatchara before the official session began at 11:00.

However, a highly-placed source present at the meeting yesterday was hopeful that Washington would not draft a list of Thai exports likely to face retaliatory tariffs when the mid March deadline arrives for the USTR to decide whether to punish Thailand for its failure to "adequately and effectively" protect American intellectual property rights.

But the official said it was likely that Washington would retain Thailand on its list of foreign countries whose policies and practices on intellectual property protection are to be monitored closely.

This would continue US pressure on thailand for specific concessions, including amendment of the revised patent legislation to protect pharmaceuticals currently undergoing clinical tests in the US but not yet available in the local masket.

The US delegates yesterday maintained that Thailand should narrow the conditions which warrant forced licensing of patent rights in the amended patent act, which was passed last week and will be enforced in the next six months, the source added.

They also suggested that the provision which calls for the creation of an exclusive body to monitor drug prices be abolished.

The protection provided under the amended patent law is in line with the emerging trend in the Uruguay Round under the GATT, Phatchara reportedly said.

Apart from pharmaceutical patents, the US expressed dissatisfaction with copyright protection and the "complicated" customs procedures American cigarette imports must undergo when entering the country, the source said.

American trade officials were not satisfied with certain "practical aspects" of Thai enforcement of the copyright law, the official said.

According to the official, the Thai side recommended that a special meeting be held later to discuss the issue. Deputy Permanent Secretary of Commerce Kroekkrai Chiraphet will likely lead the Thai team. No date and venue for the planned meeting, however, were mentioned yesterday.

On the import of cigarettes, they requested the withdrawal of Thailand's requirement that duty stamps be placed and health warnings printed in Thai on cigarette packs.

Moreover, the Finance Ministry should also permit importers to set up bonded warehouses where imported cigarettes can be stored duty-free until actual sale, they said.

The two requests were rejected outright on the ground that Thailand does not discriminate against foreign brands sice Thai cigarettes must also comply with these rules.

Economic Screening Committee Rejects Jet Purchase

BK0503012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Mar 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] The government screening committee on economic affairs rebuffed the Air Force yesterday by deciding its plan to spend more than Bt5 billion [baht] on 50 advanced training jets was tantamount to overspending its budget.

The Cabinet had asked the panel to review the planned purchase of Czechoslovakia's L-39 Albatros jets after Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun questioned whether Air Force spending was exceeding 75 per cent of its overall annual budget, which is the spending limit set by a Cabinet resolution.

A committee source said that after a thorough and technical study, the panel concluded the planned purchase meant overall spending would exceed the Air Force's entire budget.

The source also said the L-39 jets would not cost Bt5.3 billion as estimated earlier, but as much as Bt6 billion.

But the source said the screening committee would not give the Cabinet "any recommendation" regarding the L-39 purchase plan.

"We will not say 'yes' or 'no'. We will just tell the government straight out that with the L-39 plan, the air force will be absolutely spending more than 75 per cent of its budget. Probably, the Air Force will even be overspending its budget," the source said.

The plan was approved in principle by the government screening committee on security affairs last week.

The plan would require a budget commitment of five years—Bt670.4 million this year, Bt85.1 million in 1993, Bt91 million in 1994, Bt44.9 million in 1995 and Bt2.460 billion in 1996, according to sources. An unspecified amount would be paid when a purchase order was placed.

Another source in the economic affairs committee predicted that the caretaker government would be unlikely to approve the Air Force's latest arms purchase request.

"If the request is approved, the government may be seen as rewarding soldiers who have seized power through a coup," said the source who asked to remain anonymous.

He added: "Cabinet approval would be suicide for both the government and the National Peacekeeping Council. Most of all, the issue should be forwarded to the next government because this government has only about three weeks left (before the election)."

The first source said the Air Force was planning to present another arms spending request but declined to give details.

The Cabinet is expected to make a decision on the L-39 request next Tuesday.

The Air Force proposed buying the L-39 training jets after it withdrew its request for Bt19 billion from the government to buy 38 AMX jet fighters, which are jointly manufactured by Italy and Brazil.

The decision to halt the AMX purchase was made after Cabinet members expressed reservations about the suitability of the procurement programme. The withdrawal was seen by some observers as a face-saving move.

The L-39 jets, when armed, could be used in a close air support role. The Air Force had not shown any interest previously in buying L-39 aircraft.

The caretaker government had earlier rejected huge arms purchase plans put forward by the military, especially the Air Force.

The government has approved the purchase of 18 new F-16 jet fighters, 4 C-130 transport aircraft and 18 units of the Condor mobile anti-aircraft system.

Air Force Commander in Chief Kaset Rotchananin has emerged as a vocal critic of the Anan government.

When the L-39 purchase programme was highlighted by the press last week, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset said he was snot satisfied with the caretaker administration which had "not done everything" it was told by the military to do.

ASEAN Called To Act on Burmese Situation

BK0503020792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Mar 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Burma Rights: Time for Asean to act"]

[Text] It is indeed laudable that for the first time, the United Nations' Human Rights Commission in Geneva agreed unanimously on Tuesday to launch a public examination of human rights abuses in Burma. Before the vote was taken by the 53-nation commission, France launched a campaign to bring discussion of reported gross violations into the open so as to increase pressure on the Rangoon authorities.

The commission also considered privately this year under a special procedure reserved for only a few countries, the human rights record of the ruling Rangoon junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). A report written by Japan's Yozo Yakota and submitted to the commision recounted accounts of torture, forced labour and maltreatment of political prisoners.

Yakoto's report also criticized SLORC for not letting him meet Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD). Suu Kyi has been held under house arrest by SLORC since July 1989 and never put on trial. The NLD won the May 1990 general elections by a landslide and instead of letting it govern Burma, SLORC arrested most of its leaders. The ruling military junta has jailed or forced into exile more than 100 of the 392 NLD politicians who won seats in the elections.

In September 18, 1988, after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators by General Saw Maung, the chief of Burma's armed forces, the military established the 19-member SLORC. Claiming "to ensure peace and tranquility in the country", on SLORC's orders, the armed forces bloodily crushed the pro-democracy demonstrations that had engulfed Burma in the previous months.

In Rangoon, the rights of Burmese accused of political offences are routinely ignored and access to legal counsel is very limited, if permitted at all.

But SLORC's atrocities are not just directed at the NLD or its supporters. On the border with Bangladesh, Burmese military troops are forcing the ethnic Muslim Rohingyas to leave Arakan state for Bangladesh. The horrific tales these Rohingyas have to tell are indeed spine-chilling. These Rohingya villagers testified that their women had been raped at gun point by Burmese soldiers and had to flee across the border as Burmese troops tried to kill them with gunfire.

The influx from West Burma's Muslim majority Arakan state began early last year. The flow suddenly increased after December 21 when Burmese troops attacked a Bangladeshi security post, killing one soldier and wounding three. Bangladeshi military intelligence says Burma has deployed 85,000 regular and para-military soldiers along the border.

Along the border with Thailand, SLORC has ordered hundreds of prisoners from its jails to work as front-line porters in the jungle war against the Karen rebels. These

prisoners are used to ferry equipment and supplies to soldiers fighting the Karens, one of the several ethnic minorities fighting SLORC. Villagers along the border are living in such a state of fear of being conscripted as porters that they just flee their homes whenever Burmese trocps show up.

While torture continues to be the hallmark of SLORC's three-and-a-half-year rule of Burma with the security forces meeting out brutal abuse to all dissidents and their families, certain countries without any compunction whatsoever continue to conduct business as usual with SLORC. Clearly for the sake of fishing and logging concessions and oil drilling rights, these nations will deal with a country where man's inhumanity to man till flourishes.

Burma continues to purchase arms from China and Singapore, which have fuelled the expansion and modernization of the Burmese army to unleash its brutal force on its own people. ASEAN too has resisted international efforts to compel the Burmese dictatorship to improve its human rights record. During a meeting with the European Community last May, ASEAN rejected calls by the EC to join in imposing international pressure, arguing that economic sanctions and other actions would close off all chances for reform in Burma. Oppression is elusive. We are rarely shown photos of political prisoners in captivity and we cannot hear the screams of those who are being tortured. That however does not obviate our responsibility to castigate a brutal regime that turns on its own people. A pertinent question needs to be asked by us in ASEAN: Has the business-as-usual ties with Burma improved SLORC's human rights record?

The UN Commission on Human Rights decision to conduct the debate on human rights in Burma in public forums shows the gravity of the matter. How long can we in ASEAN remain unperturbed to the Burmese prisoners who are being tortured with electric shocks? How long can we close our ears to the wails of Burmese women who were forced to undress and then raped at gunpoint? Should we in ASEAN comfort them by saying that reforms would come soon to Burma because we are continuing to trade with SLORC?

This is indeed intolerable. Sadly our economic performance has not matched our ability to feel for our fellowmen just across the border. The insatiable desire to make money has clouded all rationality when it comes to Burma.

Karen Villagers Seek Shelter From War

BK0403065992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] About 600 Karen villagers, fleeing the Burmese Army's daily raids against Karen guerrillas, have taken shelter in Thailand.

The first group of 300 crossed the Moei River into Thailand on March 1 when two Burmese jet fighters bombed Thi Ker Ky, located only three kilometres south of the Karen guerilla headquarters of Manerplaw.

They are now staying in Baan Huay Mae Po in Tha Song Yang District, Tak Province, according to border area sources.

The latest influx of refugees from Baan Mae Pa and Baan Mae Latha, located about 15 km to the north of Manerplaw, crossed the river to Baan Mae in Mae Hong Son's Mae Sarieng District, said the sources.

The sources added that more Karens were expected to move into Thailand if the air strikes continue near the civilian villages.

Meanwhile, Thai border officers confirmed that three Burmese jet fighters were shot down during the February 26-29 operations against the Karen.

One of them exploded in mid-air above Manerplaw, and one crashed near Shwegun while attempting an emergency landing at Pa-an and the third falling at Thaton in Mon State.

Despite the losses, the Burmese Army is continuing its air operations which began at the end of last month, they said.

On the battle front further south, the Burmese Army is proceeding with efforts to seize the Karen's Kaw Moo Ra stronghold.

Fourteen heavy motars had landed on Thai soil as of 3 am yesterday morning.

Local Thai troops fired several warning shots to mark the territorial violation.

But there were no reports of casualties from either the Karen or the Burmese.

Kaw Moo Ra, opposite Thailand's Mae Sot District, has withstood Burmese attacks for the past three years.

NPKC Chairman Defends Anan Government

BK0403104592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong defended the NPKC-installed caretaker government yesterday after his chief adviser had strongly criticized its performance.

The NPKC and the government "have been sharing responsibility" for administrative shortcomings since the Feb 23 coup last year, Sunthon said.

The NPKC was also willing to "take all the blame" for the government's failures and "give credit" to the administration for the good work it has done, he said.

Bunchana Atthakon, who leads the NPKC's advisory board, had said the government of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun achieved "only 50 per cent" of what should have been done during the transitional period.

"I don't know what criteria Bunchana used to judge the government," Sunthon said.

Sunthon, who is constitutionally empowered to oust the government, dismissed rumours that he would sack the prime minister.

Bunchana's criticism followed a sarcastic remark by Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kaset Rotchananin, who implied that he was not satisfied with the Anan government. ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset said he would wait until after the March 22 general election to point out the failures of the interim administration.

Sunthon attributed the Anan government's problems to time constraints.

"Of course the government's accomplishments are not 100 per cent. But we have to take into account its short tenure and the number of obstacles," said the former supreme commander.

But Sunthon noted that little progress had been made by the caretaker government on two major issues—farmers' debts and the trouble-plagued fertilizer project.

Prime Minister Anan, meanwhile, said he would accept only constructive criticism.

"There are 57 million Thais and I can't listen to all comments. Everybody has a right to speak and criticize," he said.

Anan said the government would accept "reasonable criticisms based on correct information" only.

"But let the prime minister decide how to treat nonsense criticisms or those made with bias. You have the right to criticize and I have the right to decide whether the criticism is acceptable," he told reporters.

Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit na Songkhla said in a separate interview the "50 per cent achievement" should be considered a success.

"Let's look at it this way: in only one year we have achieved 50 per cent, so what if we had four years?" he said.

Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit yesterday also said the caretaker government had done its best.

He said Bunchana was "looking from a different angle" when he criticized the government.

Poll Watch Notes Complaints Against Some Parties

BK0403065192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 92 p A1-A2

[Text] Candidates of the New Aspiration, Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham parties top the list of politicians whose election campaigns are subject to complaints, according to sources in the independent election watchdog.

The Poll Watch sources did not name names or provide details on what types of wrongdoings the parties had allegedly committed.

The sources said the election monitoring body had received some 150 complaints for all of last month. Of this, 42 have been substantiated and are under investigation, they said.

The majority of the complaints, 40, are about alleged breaches of impartiality on the part of government officials, they said.

"Judging from the number of complaints we received, the alleged breaches of impartiality by government officials are most serious in the northeastern province of Surin," one source said.

"The whole local administration mechanism in Surin has been geared up to serve a certain political party," the source said.

The political party in question was so powerful that it could ask provincial authorities to bar Poll Watch monitors from reporting alleged wrongdoings committed by its candidates, the sources said.

They said most complaints were about incidents that allegedly took place in Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Pathum Thani, Samut Sakhon and Nonthaburi.

However, as far as vote-buying was concerned, the northeastern provinces of Roi Et and Khon Kaen remain the most important destinations of cash inflow.

The Poll Watch, which reports to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, plans to field some 20,000 volunteers countrywide to monitor the March 22 general election to ensure fairness.

—Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan said in Chiang Mai yesterday if he became prime minister or a Cabinet member after the next election, he would not resist pressure from the military to resign if the generals so wanted.

He is the second political leader to have vowed to comply with military wishes after the March 22 general election. Chat Thai leader ACM [Air chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong made a similar pledge recently.

Samakkhi Tham's founders, who have strong connections with the military, invited Narong to lead the party

after it was formed in the wake of the Feb 23 coup last year. Narong complied, abandoning the helm of the Solidarity Party.

Samakkhi Tham, which has recruited veterans from some other parties affected by the military coup, is expected to emerge as a strong force after the poll. It has formed an alliance with the Chat Thai and Social Action parties with an ultimate goal of forming the core of the post-election government.

Narong said another political party might join the alliance. He refused to identify it but the Prachakon Thai party has been widely mentioned as a potential partner in the bloc.

Narong said the alliance would nominate the leader of the biggest bloc member for the premiership.

Samakkhi Tham expects to win up to 80 House seats, while Chat Thai and Social Action hope to capture about 60 and 50 seats respectively.

Narong said he could be the next prime minister if the alliance won a majority in the House.

Vietnam

Purpose, Results of Solomon's Visit Reported

BK0503111192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Solomon is on a visit to Vietnam for talks on humanitarian issues. Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said that the U.S. side listened to officials of the Vietnamese Health Ministry and the Ministry of War Invalids and Social Affairs who reported on Vietnam's humanitarian needs.

Speaking at a press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, Mr. Le Mai said that at this meeting, the U.S. side initiated several humanitarian aid programs for Vietnam with a total sum of three million U.S. dollars. Besides, the United States also contributed another six million dollars through nongovernmental organizations and tens of millions of dollars through United Nations aid programs for Vietnam.

Mr. Le Mai thanked the United States for its aid and said that the sum remained modest in comparison with the great material needs of Vietnam as well as Vietnam's great efforts in response to U.S. humanitarian issues, and especially regarding a country like the United States. He noted that it is, however, a significant start on the U.S.' part and that these activities also mean no need for working subsequent American moves. [sentence as heard]

On the issue of interest to the United States, the question of MIA's, Mr. Le Mai made known that during the meeting, Mr. Solomon made five proposals. He held that they summed up the past proposals which Vietnam has responded to positively. Mr. Le Mai (?welcomed) the results of the trip to Vietnam by Mr. Solomon and said that the process of normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States has maintained its pace.

Solomon Meets With Premier Vo Van Kiet 4 Mar

BK0503070492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0653 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi, March 4 (AFP)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon met with Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet here Thursday, capping two days of talks on humanitarian issues, officials said.

Solomon, the most senior U.S. official to visit Hanoi in six years, was expected to announce new economic aid to Vietnam before leaving later Thursday for Laos, the third stop on his seven-nation Asian tour, U.S. sources said.

Solomon, who met notably with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam after arriving here Wednesday, pressed for more progress in accounting for the 2,267 U.S. servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in Indochina, the sources said.

The MIA issue remains the main obstacle to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Hanoi, as many Americans believe some U.S. POWs could still be held in Southeast Asia 17 years after the end of the war.

Washington also maintains a crippling economic embargo against Vietnam, though it acknowledges that no credible evidence has been found to contradict Hanoi's insistence that it freed all prisoners of war in 1974.

Solomon's 13-member delegation includes Alan Ptak, the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA affairs, and George Laudato, deputy administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID last year pledged 1.3 million U.S. dollars for a prosthetics program, in the first U.S. official aid to Vietnam since 1975. Washington pledged a further 25,000 dollars in disaster aid in February.

Solomon is the most senior U.S. official to visit Hanoi since his predecessor, Paul Wolfowitz, visited in January 1986.

The pace and level of official exchanges between Washington and Hanoi has increased since Vietnam co-signed a peace treaty for Cambodia in October. In December, Washington lifted its ban on group travel by Americans to Vietnam.

Ambassador to UN on U.S. Ties, Embargo, MIA's

BK0503102192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] On his 2 March working trip to Washington, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, the chief of our permanent UN delegation, was invited to visit the WASHINGTON POST office for an interview.

Asked about the normalization of bilateral U.S.-Vietnam relations, the ambassador maintained that the U.S. embargo has not only caused difficulties for Vietnam, but also harmed U.S. businesses. Because of the interests of both countries, the United States should lift its embargo.

Asked about Vietnam's cooperation in the MIA issue, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang asserted: Vietnam has always considered this a humanitarian issue and is ready to cooperate with the United States to settle it. Yet, the U.S. should not treat it a condition for the normalization process. He said the recent trip of U.S. presidential envoy in charge of MIA affairs, General Vessey, has achieved good results. General Vessey himself has confirmed this, contrary to some recent views of the American public.

Answering a question about the situation in Vietnam, the ambassador indicated: The Vietnamese people are debating the draft revised constitution in keeping with the party line. The Vietnamese people are determined to persist in the lines set forth by the seventh party congress.

Resolution of, Response to MIA Issue Discussed

BK0403155792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] At present, some people in the U.S Government still maintain that Vietnam has not been active in resolving the MIA issue, and Washington is not satisfied with Vietnam's response to this issue. In this connection, our radio has this comment: The above-mentioned assessment on Vietnam's response to the MIA issue does not reflect the official view of the U.S. Government. This is because many U.S. Government officials have asserted Vietnam's active role in this issue. Prompted by the awareness that MIA is a humanitarian issue, and despite the fact that Vietnam has also had some 300,000 people unaccounted for in the war, the Vietnamese Government and people have unilaterally been cooperating with the United States resolving this issue. And the search for American MIA's has been going on despite the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam. (? Only) last year Vietnam has taken the initiative in creating favorable conditions for resolving the MIA issue. Whenever information comes up on the fate of any missing American GI in any part of Vietnam, the search for remains of American personnel who died in the Vietnam war has been conducted from the northern province of Lang Son to the central regions and other localities. And everywhere the joint [words indistinct] team has witnessed the active collaboration of the Vietnamese Government and people.

Indeed, this month Vietnam and the U.S. will continue a new drive for the sole purpose in the southern provinces. So far, fifteen joint searches have been conducted. Without active cooperation from Vietnam there could never be the fifteen or so joint searches to have been conducted. A meeting will be held late this month to evaluate the results of the joint search, but public opinion in the United States has already made initial assessments on (?it).

The special envoy of the U.S, president, General John Vessey, speaking in Hanoi only last month, held that Vietnam and the U.S. work together voluntarily with good results in settlement of the MIA issue. On February 27 Brigadier General Thomas Metham, commander of the U.S. military task force in charge of accounting for American servicemen missing in action, said that the Vietnamese Government expressed all its goodwill in resolving the MIA issue. What is more, in face of rumors that Vietnam still detains some American prisoners of war a broad section of American public says (? this is not) the issue. [Name indistinct] in charge of the American prisoners of war, MIA office in Hanoi, said that he had not seen any American under detention in Vietnam. He also said he did not believe in rumors that Hanoi still detains Americans.

[illegible] pointed out that Vietnam, despite its material difficulties, has been creating favorable conditions for the settlement of MIA. A high-ranking U.S. Government delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon, arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday for continued discussion on the MIA issue. Vietnam hopes that the trip will help promote the existing active cooperation between the two sides and will facilitate bilateral ties in the spirit of the U.S President's message to Vietnam that it [word indistinct] steps forward in normalizing relations with Vietnam.

Czech Labor Minister Discusses Guestworkers

BK0403161992 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—Czech Minister of Labour Milan Horalek paid a week-long visit ended here today to discuss issues related to Vietnamese guestworkers in the Czech Republic. In his talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs led by Minister Tran Dinh Hoan, the Czech minister said his country has scupulously implemented the Nov 2, 1980 agreement and the Sept 6, 1991 protocol signed between Vietnam and Czechoslovakia relating to the Vietnamese guestworkers in the Czech Republic. He said that on January 16, 1992, the Government of Czechoslovakia had decided to grant 400 million koruna as humanitarian aid to Vietnam to help it find jobs for Vietnamese guest workers who had to come

back home before schedule. Mr. Horalek said he would convey to his government Vietnam's request for humanitarian aid for some centres for disabled children and orphans. While here, the Czech minister and his party paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, and visited some cultural establishments here, and toured some enterprises which are employing Vietnamese workers back from Czechoslovakia.

Radio Applauds Relations With Denmark

BK0303112192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Article by Thanh Hai commemorating 1 March National Day of Denmark: "Introduction to Denmark and its People"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] For many years Denmark, one of the Northern European countries having diplomatic relations with Vietnam, has given us economic assistance. The famous Hoang Thach cement plant is one of the installations that received Danish eqipment to turn out one million tonnes of good quality cement each year. In recent years, since Vietnam carried out renovation, many Danish representatives have visited our country, among them Mrs (Norman), a famous economist from Copenhagen University. Favorably impressed by our country, following her visit she has written a series of articles introducing today's Vietnam and its renovation process to the Danish people, whom she has praised as effective and capable of causing Vietnam to advance greatly.

In 1991 a Danish Government delegation visited Vietnam to study on the spot possibilities to develop the Vietnam-Denmark relations of cooperation and investment. Speaking to newsmen before leaving Vietnam for home, the delegation said: Vietnam's latent potential is very great and there are many possibilities for Denmark to cooperate with and invest in Vietnam in order to bring about benefits for both countries.

Yunnan Provincial Delegation Visits

BK0303075992 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 3 Mar 92

[text] Hanoi VNA March 3—A delegation of the Chinese province of Yunnan led by Governor Ho Zhiqiang has paid an 11-day visit to Vietnam.

The Chinese delegation met with senior officials of the northern provinces of Lao Cai and Yen Bai, Haiphong port City, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Last Wednesday the Chinese guests were received in Hanoi by Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Duc Luong, who said that important agreements reached between Vietnamese and Chinese leaders had created conditions for further cooperation between sectors and localities in the two countries. Cooperation between Vietnam and Yunnan is an objective necessity and is very promising, he added.

On this occasion, Yunnan Governor Ho Zhiqiang presented the Vietnamese government with a quantity of medicines.

Earlier, the Chinese delegation was honoured at a party given by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

Stepped Up Repair of Joint Rail Link Reported

BK0403071092 Hanoi VNA in English 0543 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—Work is being stepped up to reopen rail link with China within this year.

Major repairs are being made to a 37-kilometre section linking the township of Bao Thang with Pho Moi, a small town on the China-Vietnam border, both in Lao Cai province.

This section, the last on the 296-kilometre Hanoi-Lao Cai line, was heavily damaged in the January 1979 border war.

The work, at the cost of 73.7 billion dong, started last year and is expected to complete this year. It involves the moving of about 40,000 cubic metres of ballast to make the roadbed, the restoration of 17 bridges and more than 20 culverts, and the building of five new stations.

Similar effort has been made since late 1991 at another section joining the capital of Lang Son province with Dong Dang, a small border town.

This 19.5 kilometre section, the northern end of the 167.5-kilometer Hanoi-Dong Dang line, was also destroyed in 1979. It requires the repair of 16 culverts, the laying of new tracks, and the addition of two new stations.

The Lang Son-Dong Dang section will open to traffic soon.

Le Quang Dao Activities Reported

Meets Swedish Ambassador

BK0303154992 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao received here yesterday new Swedish Ambassador Mats Olof Aberg.

On this occasion, the Swedish diplomat affirmed his country's policy of continuing to help Vietnam and strengthen the cooperation between the two countries. He said that Swedish investors and businessmen are greaty interested in promoting economic relations with Vietnam.

For his part, Chairman Le Quang Dao sincerely thanked the Swedish Government and people for their great and effective assistance to Vietnam and expressed his belief that the fine friendship and cooperation between the two countries would further develop in the present new situation.

Meets With Hungarian Ambassador

BK0303154592 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao cordially received here yesterday Hungarian Ambassador to Vietnam Toth Raymond who affirmed that Hungary would strive to contribute to promoting the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Le Quang Dao said the Vietnamese people always treasure the Vietnamese-Hungarian traditional relationship and expressed his wish for the maintenance and development of the bilateral relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The reception took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Visits Animal Husbandry Institute

BK0303113192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] On 29 February Mr. Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the State Council, paid a working visit to the Institute of Animal Husbandry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

The chairman was warmly welcomed by Comrade Ngo The Dan, deputy minister of agriculture and food industry; Prof. Nguyen Thien, a PhD-degree holder and director of the Institute of Animal Husbandry; and a large number of cadres and workers of the institute, and was briefed on the research results obtained by the institute over the past 20 years. The chairman was also taken on a guided tour of various research and experimentation facilities.

On behalf of the National Assembly and State Council, the chairman praised the institute for its important contributions to Vietnam's animal husbandry sector in making animal husbandry a principal production sector.

Worthy of note is that in recent years the Institute of Animal Husbandry has applied the renovation mechanism in research, and has attained some results instrumental in catering to production, with the aim of improving the output and quality of meat, eggs, and milk.

The institute has initiated and satisfactorily coordinated activities aimed at carrying out 10 state-and branch-level projects, and 24 district-and grass-roots-level projects on animals and poultry as part of its efforts to perfect various technical programs for animal husbandry. Meanwhile, the institute has also satisfactorily carried out four international projects dealing with cows and ducks and with the processing of agricultural byproducts for use as animal feed.

Chairman Le Quang Dao urged that the institute should pay more attention to conducting research on animals and poultry to suit its present conditions concerning funds, material bases, and manpower.

The institute should pay great attention to developing the potentialities of its existing contingent of scientific and technical cadres while training young professional cadres for the animal husbandry sector. The application of scientific-technical innovations in production should be introduced to every peasant household and every state farm, and efforts should be made to link animal husbandry with processing activities and the finding of markets for consumption.

Amity Groups Celebrate Bulgarian National Day

BK0203170492 Hanoi VNA in English 1610 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A get-together was held here today by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship organizations to mark Bulgaria's National Day (March 3).

Among those present was Nguyen Minh Thong, vice minister of light industry and president of the Vietnam-Bulgaria Friendship Association, and Bulgarian Ambassador Boris Prifanov Stoichev.

The Vietnamese vice-minister and the Bulgarian ambassador expressed wishes for further consolidation and development of the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Envoy Gives Reception

BK0403072192 Hanoi VNA in English 0538 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—Bulgarian Ambassador to Vietnam Boris Stoytchev gave a reception here yesterday on the occasion of the 114th National Day of Bulgaria.

Prominent among the Vietnamese guests were Nguyen Dy Nien, vice foreign minister, and Nguyen Minh Thong, vice minister of light industry and president of the Vietnam-Bulgaria Friendship Association.

Host and guest raised toasts to the further consolidation and development of the Vietnamese-Bulgarian Friendship and Cooperation.

Aquino Talks About Relationship With SRV

BK0403160292 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—The Philippines and Vietnam are ideally placed to be constructive partners in each other's development, said President Corazon Aquino in an interview in Manila exclusively granted to NHAN DAN correspondent on the occasion of Chairman Vo Van Kiet's recent visit to the Philippines.

Asked about the relationship between Vietnam and the Philippines and its future orientation she said:"The Philippine and Vietnam bilateral relationship is based on friendship, mutual respect and a history of commercial and cultural exchanges which actually date back at least 2,000 years. The formal diplomatic relationship, however, is only on its 16th year, and differences over the Cambodian issue kept both countries somewhat at arm's length from each other for about a dozen of those years. However, with the Cambodia question well on its way to solution, and with Vietnam instituting economic renovation measures which would enable it to join the mainstream of economic activity in the region, the way is clear for a marked strengthening and expansion of the bilateral Philippine-Vietnamese relationship.

"As developing Southeast Asia nations faced with the challenges of enonomic reconstruction, the Philippines and Vietnam are ideally placed to be constructive partners in each other's development".

Asked about her opinion of the renovation going on in Vietnam she said:

"The Vietnamese Government's policy of 'Doi Moi' (renovation) and 'Coi Mo' (Openness), its espousal of a market economy system and the current process of formulating a new and more democratically oriented constitution all suggest that Vietnam's leaders have placed the country well on the path to economic recovery and reconstruction. The growing foreign investor interest in Vietnam is convincing proof that the new policies are attractive and intriguing to outsiders.

Canada To Assist in Teaching English

BK0303071592 Hanoi VNA in English 0544 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—An English centre within the framework of a cooperation project between the Vietnam National Centre for Social Sciences (NCSS) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) of Canada was inaugurated yesterday at the Hanoi Polytechnic.

Beside English language teaching, the 1,130,000 Canadian dollar project includes research on rural development, urbanisation, social policies, and family-based economy.

Present at the inaugural ceremony were Prof. Nguyen Duy Qui, head of the NCSS, representative of the Office of the Council of Ministers, Canadian Charge d'Affaires Marius R. Grinius and a number of UBC's lecturers.

National Assembly Delegation Attends Conference

BK0203160392 Hanoi VNA in English 1546 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—A delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly headed by Doctor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, attended an annual conference of the Asian Forum of Parliamentatians on Population and Development (AFPPD) recently held in Tokyo.

Taking the floor at the conference, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong called on all countries to help Vietnam in technology and means to step up family planning and promote econmic development in order to cut down country's population growth rate.

On this occasion, the delegation met with delegates of Japan, China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia.

On the way from Tokyo, the delegation visited Thailand at the invitation of Mr. P. Phratanakon, secretary general of AFPPD.

Yen Bai Gives Suggestions To Draft Amendments

BK0303104692 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] To date, more than 80,000 people in Yen Bai Province have studied and discussed the constitutional draft amendments and contributed more than 8,700 suggestions to the various chapters and articles of the draft document. According to many people, some key sentences and phrases should be changed. For example, the use of Chinese terms should be avoided as long as there are equivalent Vietnamese terms. This would make it easier for the people to understand them.

It was suggested that regarding Article 32, Chapter Three, the phrase "the state and society" should be added to the phrase "create conditions for" to make it read "the state and society should create conditions for talented writers and artists to produce creative works."

It was suggested that regarding Article 53, Chapter Five, the phrase "devise plans" should be replaced by the phrase "have the duty" to stress that the state and society have the duty to create jobs for the laboring people.

Regarding Article 59, it should be clearly pointed out that the state strictly prohibits the circulation, hoarding, and use of narcotics.

Regarding Article 96, Chapter Six, it should only be stressed that National Assembly deputies must be arrested and prosecuted strictly in accordance with law if they are caught red-handed. By putting it this way we can reflect the truth that if caught red-handed, National

Assembly deputies, like ordinary citizens, must be arrested and prosecuted without having to wait until the National Assembly is in session or until its chairman has given his opinion. This is aimed at reflecting the strictness of the law.

State Plans To Solve Unemployment Problem

BK0203125992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The state has formulated a plan to resolve the unemployment problem in Vietnam from now to 1995. The plan calls for efforts to provide more jobs for youths through the expansion of the youth assault movement and through the campaigns of the Vietnam Women's Union.

Measures will be taken to move 1.2 million people including 600,000 workers to localities to reclaim 300,000-400,000 hectares of virgin land for cultivation to create more jobs for laborers. Loans will be provided for peasants in forestry development, animal husbandry, and other trades to increase output for export, especially for localities in the rural and coastal areas. Efforts will be made to encourage and develop small-scale production units, especially households with capital, knowledge, and skills. Measures will be taken to streamline state agencies and redeploy 300,000- 320,000 workers. More workers and specialists will also be sent to work abroad. More job placement and training centers will also be set up in the provinces, cities, and at industrial complexes. Efforts will also be made to satisfactorily carry out the EC program to create jobs for the repatriates, and the program to reduce the number of poor families by creating more jobs and increasing income.

It is estimated that 7.57 million people will be unemployed in Vietnam during 1991-95.

Winter-Spring Rice Planting Completed

BK0303071992 Hanoi VNA in English 0546 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—By the end of February, peasants throughout the country had completed the planting of more than 2,225,000 hectares of the winter-spring rice crop, it is reported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

In this crop, the northern provinces planted over 1,038,000 hectares, achieving nearly 96 percent of the plan, while the southern provinces planted 1,187,300 hectares, surpassing the plan by 6.7 percent.

Peasants in the southern provinces had also harvested early winter-spring rice on more than 122,000 hectares with an average yield of five tonnes per hectare.

Disease, Locusts Affect Winter-Spring Rice Crop

BK0203140992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] In general, the winter-spring rice crop looks good though they have been affected by some diseases. In the northern part of Central Vietnam, rice blast has developed in 30-50 percent of the glutinous rice crop planted with 13-2, CR203, and DT10 strains.

In the mountainous provinces and plains of North Vietnam, rice blast has affected about 5-10 percent of the crop. Brown planthoppers, rice planthoppers, grass leaf rollers, and ground beetles are also appearing in some places.

In southern Vietnam provinces, 60,000 hectares of IR64 and IR66 rice strains including the crop in Tien Giang Province, have been affected by rice blast, doubling last week's figure. Rice blast has also occured in the provinces of Phu Yen, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Quang Nam-Da Nang. Meanwhile, brown planthoppers with a density of 5,000-10,000 per sq. meter, have damaged about 120,000 hectares of the winter-spring rice crop.

In the Mekong River Delta, 64,000 hectares have been infested by grass leaf rollers and 37,000 hectares by rice leaf yellows.

It is predicted that in the next 10 days that rice blast will continue to spread and may cause heavy damage in the northern provinces of Central Vietnam. Brown planthopper and rice planthopper are also increasingly infesting the winter-spring rice crop. In the provinces of southern Vietnam, the rice blast situation may become serious. Rice blast, brown planthoppers, and grass leaf rollers have continued to damage rice crops in the Mekong River Delta.

The Botanic Cultivation and Protection Department have suggested that northern provinces maintain a good water level for newly-planted crop and to be aware of rice blast. They have been advised to stop using nitrate fertilizers, to keep good water level in blast-affected crops, to treat rice blast with chemical sprays, and to continue preventing the other insects infestation.

The southern provinces should prevent the infestation of rice blast, brown planthoppers, and grass leaf rollers. A close watch should be kept for brown planthoppers and rice yellows so that timely treatment can be administered.

HANOI MOI Says Dissidents Arrested Last Year

BK0403105892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] HANOI, March 4 (AFP)—Several Vietnamese dissidents were arrested here last year and accused of wanting to topple the communist government or form a political party, the HANOI MOI newspaper reported Wednesday.

It said a certain Pham Van Thuc had been arrested after writing "six articles that he sent to the BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) calling on the West to intervene to overthrow the socialist regime in Vietnam."

Other dissidents were arrested for wanting to create a "Greater Democratic Vietnam (Dai Viet)" party, the newspaper added.

It did not say exactly how many people had been arrested or when, although it added that the arrests had led to the seizure of "documents concerning the programme and the status" of the party.

HANOI MOI said Pham Van Thuc lived in "the residential quarters of the officers' artillery training school." Observers said that did necessarily mean he was an officer, and perhaps only belonged to a military family [sentence as received].

The newspaper also said "the receiving, concealment and trafficking of munitions, arms and explosives has become very common" and that "some of the cases were quite serious," but it did not establish a connection between those crimes and the political dissidents.

Meanwhile, it editorialised that the collapse of the Soviet Union had emboldened "reactionary" elements at home and abroad keen on overturning socialism in Vietnam.

"The crisis in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union seems to have encouraged international reactionary forces and reactionaries in this country to search for any means to oppose the Vietnamese revolution," the newspaper said.

"They have propogandised in favour of pluralism and a multiparty system, denigrated the socialist system and launched diatribes against the (Vietnamese) leaders," said the newspaper.

The disappearance of the Soviet Union, for decades Vietnam's principal ally, shook Vietnamese leaders, but they have nonetheless reaffirmed on several occasions that they intend to pursue the socialist path in their country.

Australia

Recognition of Breakaway Yugoslav Republic Delayed

BK0303114892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Canberra, March 3 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here Tuesday his government would not recognise the Yugoslavia republic called Macedonia until questions about its name and the protection of minorities were resolved.

Evans told parliament that the Australian Government was "acutely conscious of the sensitivities" involved in according recognition to the Yugoslav republic.

His comments follow protests by Greek Australians, including a march by 40,000 people here on Sunday, the largest political demonstration in this city in many years.

They object to the use of the name Macedonia by the breakaway Yugoslav republic, which Greeks contend is populated by Slavs and not Macedonians.

The demonstrators maintained that Macedonia, which is also the name of adjoining Greek province, was a 3,000-year-old Greek name and that it had been stolen from them by Yugoslavia.

Evans said the government understood the struggle of people in the republic and of their friends and relatives abroad to fulfill aspirations for democracy and independence.

But the government was also aware of cultural and historical issues surrounding the use of the name Macedonia, Greece's concern about possible territorial claims, and concern about the protection of minorities.

"Australia will not proceed to the recognition until these basic oustanding questions are resolved," he said.

Evans said Australia would await a decision on the issue by the majority of European countries "before we make any decision of our own.

"We've no wish to see the recognition issue determined in any way which serves only to create new regional tensions in a region which has already been undergoing such rapid change," he said.

Evans stance tempered the view expressed by Laurie Brereton, Prime Minister Paul Keating's representative at the Sunday rally after the march, who was booed as he told the huge crowd that the government would be "cautious."

Brereton said the government supported efforts to bring about peace in troubled Yugoslavia, but his words were drowned out by loud chants of: "Not good enough."

Poll Shows Government Gaining Support

BK0303012692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1806 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Sydney, March 3 (AFP)—An opinion poll published here Tuesday and conducted amid rekindled republican and economic debates in Australia indicates a significant boost in Prime Minister Paul Keating's popularity.

The Saulwick poll showed Keating moved from a position one month ago where negative responses outweighed positive by 20 percentage points—giving the newly appointed prime minister a rating of minus 20—to minus four last week.

The poll, conducted for the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD on February 27 and 28, gave conservative opposition leader John Hewson a rating of plus 23, down from plus 25 one month ago.

The survey was carried out two days after Keating delivered a major economic statement, his blueprint for the recovery of Australia, which is deep in recession and burdened with an unemployment rate of 10.3 percent.

The February 26 package promised 2.3 billion dollars (1.5 billion U.S.) in government spending on infrastructure and job training, as well as a new tax regime to boost investment and saving.

The survey also came after Keating rekindled debate about whether Australia should become a republic with his remarks about the country's growing independence and its need to look to Asia for its economic future, rather than to its former colonial ruler, Britain. The controversial comments were made in an address at the opening of the new session of the national parliament, which was presided over by Britain's visiting Queen Elizabeth, who is constitutional head of state and officially recognised as Queen of Australia.

The key factor of the Saulwick-Herald poll was the indication that Keating, with an improvement of 16 percentage points, had cut Hewson's lead from 45 percent one month ago to 27 percent last Thursday and Friday.

Pollster Irving Saulwick told the HERALD, "The major improvement has been among Labor (Party) voters, and no one was offering them a vision."

There was a vacuum for a long time. "Keating has filled that vacuum. At the very least, he has shown that Labor has entered the fight," Saulwick said.

"The big issue was the economic statement, and I think he also got a bonus from his comments on independence," he said.

According to the poll on "How the leaders rate," Keating and Hewson respectively scored six and 10 for very good, 22 and 31 for good, 28 and 41 for positive and 34 and 38 for fair.

On the negative side, Keating scored 17 for poor while Hewson got 12, 15 very poor against six, 32 negative against 18 and five don't knogainst four. The net rating gave Keating minus four and Hewson 23.

In a Saulwick-Herald poll on the republican issue—conducted at the same time and published on February 29—out of a sample of 1,000 people, 42 percent wanted Australia to become a republic within the Commonwealth, which groups Britain and its former colonies.

But 39 percent wanted Australia to stay within in the Commonwealth with the queen, while 15 percent believed the country should form a republic outside the Commonwealth.

Prime Minister's Economic Package Viewed

BK2702043892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating says the government's economic statement will accelerate recovery and produce 800,000 new jobs in the next four years. The statement predicts that unemployment would have fallen by about 1 percent by mid-1993 to give a jobless rate of 9.5 percent of the work force. Graeme Dobell reports on Australia's economic outlook:

[Begin recording] The statement says there will be little or no economic growth in the 12 months ending in June, but then it predicts a strong rebound in the following 12 months, forecasting economic growth of 4.75 percent. The Keating statement says that in the four years to 1996, Australia can achieve sustained growth with falling unemployment and a steady inflation rate.

The economic document assumed that Australia's inflation will run at about 3.5 percent in line with other major trading nations. The statement says Australia's economy should grow at an average of 4 percent up to 1996, but even with that growth the jobless rate by 1996 is still estimated to be close to 8 percent.

Tax laws are to be changed to encourage private companies to build railways and roads and invest in electricity generation —previously the sole preserve of governments. Development projects worth more $50 million will get a special equipment allowance.

The government announced a major loosening of controls on foreign investment in Australia. Non-Australians will now be allowed to spend up to $50 million on buying farms, factories, hotels, and other services without being subjected to any examination from the Australian Government. [end recording]

The federal opposition leader, John Hewson, has described the economic package as irresponsible and says that prediction of a 5 percent growth in gross domestic product to pay for the measures are undeliverable.

Solomon Islands

Expulsion of Leading PNG Rebel Considered

BK0303051492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The government in Solomon Islands is considering expelling a senior member of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] from Honiara. Brian Abbott reports from Port Moresby that the measure is designed to diffuse growing tensions between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea [PNG] over the handling of the secessionist crisis in Bougainville.

[Begin recording] [Abbott] The permanent secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department in Honiara, (Wilson Ipanawa), said the status of (Martin Miriori), the so-called foreign secretary in the interim government of Bougainville, is being examined.

The action follows a strong protest by Papua New Guinea last month that Solomon Islands was facilitating the movement of BRA rebels and allowing its territory to be used in promoting anti-PNG propaganda.

Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, met his Solomon Islands counterpart, Sir Beddeley Devesi, in Fiji last Friday and formally requested Solomon Islands to close BRA office in Honiara. Mr. (Ipanawa) said the status of Mr. (Miriori) is basically a migration issue and will be handled in a way that is helpful to relations between Port Moresby and Honiara. [end recording]